

Harumi Sato / Hiroshi Kazusa



MANGA CVN 73

USS George Washington





RADM James D. Kelly, USN
Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan

Over the course of my Naval career, I have been honored to live in this beautiful country for nearly eight years and have loved every day of it. I have so many memories from my time here, and Japan will be forever in my heart. One of the most significant memories is the arrival of USS GEORGE WASHINGTON to Yokosuka, Japan. During a time of global instability and unrest, the forward deployment of USS GEORGE WASHINGTON to America's greatest ally and second largest global economic power, Japan, is an incredible signal of partnership and alliance that will reverberate around the world. Bringing with it some of the most modern military capabilities, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON is charged with the defense of Japan and maintaining peace and stability in the Far East. Her highly-trained professional Sailors are United States Ambassadors to Japan as well as future neighbors and best friends to many citizens here. Please enjoy this story about her arrival.

Story&Art Harumi Sato/Hiroshi Kazusa

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Public Affairs Office



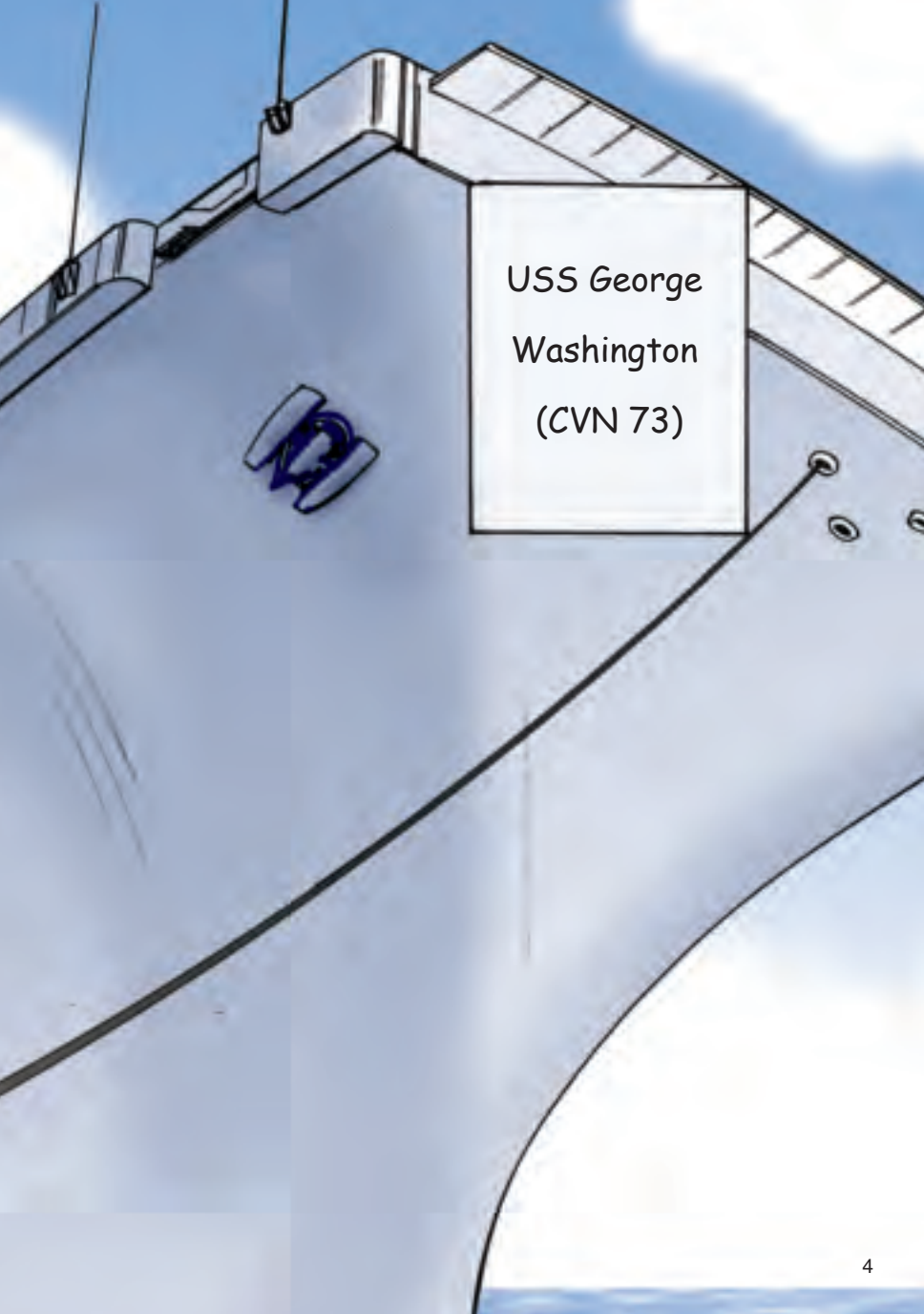
MANGA **CVN 73**

USS George Washington

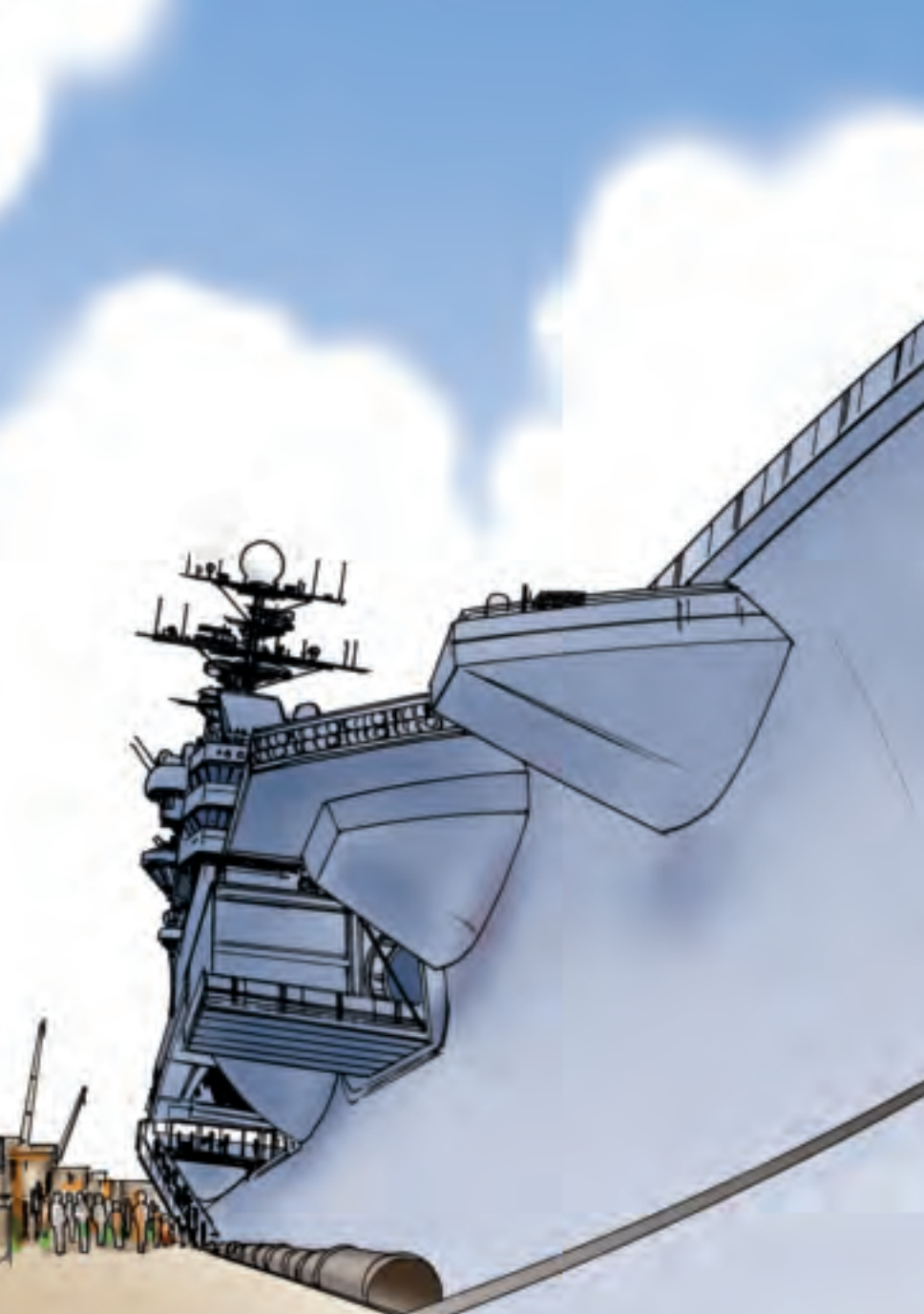


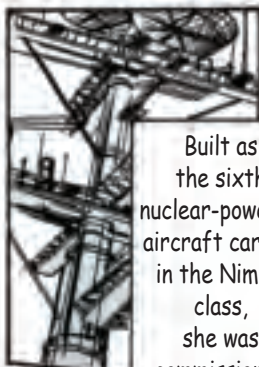
Its
sheer
size was
daunting.



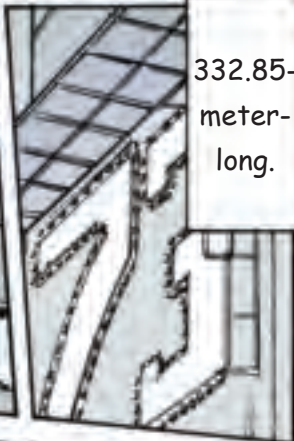
A close-up, low-angle photograph of the USS George Washington (CVN 73). The image shows the ship's grey hull and white superstructure against a blue sky with clouds. A blue and white hull number '73' is visible on the side. A white rectangular box with a black border is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the ship's name and hull number. A thick black diagonal line, likely a cable or rope, runs across the lower half of the frame.

USS *George*
Washington
(CVN 73)

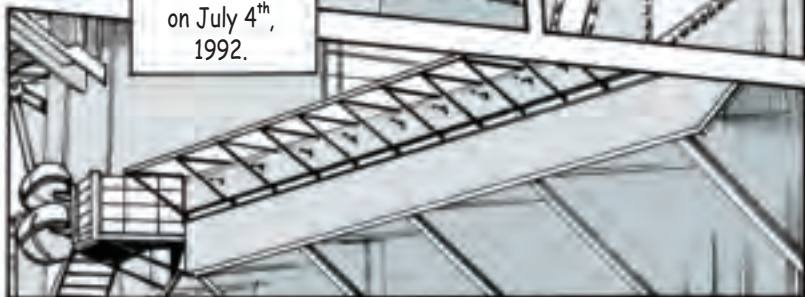




Built as the sixth nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in the Nimitz class, she was commissioned on July 4th, 1992.



332.85-meter-long.



Accommodating over 5,000 crew, she can travel at a high-speed of 30⁺knots.

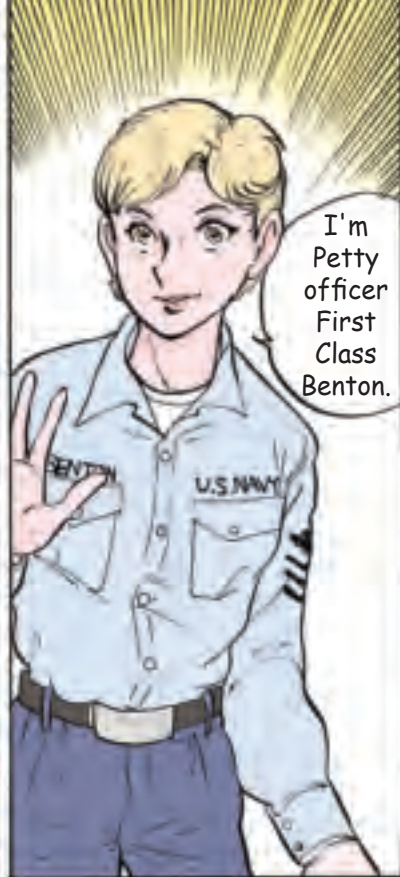
Everything is new. Of course, I don't know anybody, either.

This is my first time serving on board a carrier and my first overseas service assignment.

She's more like a skyscraper than a ship.

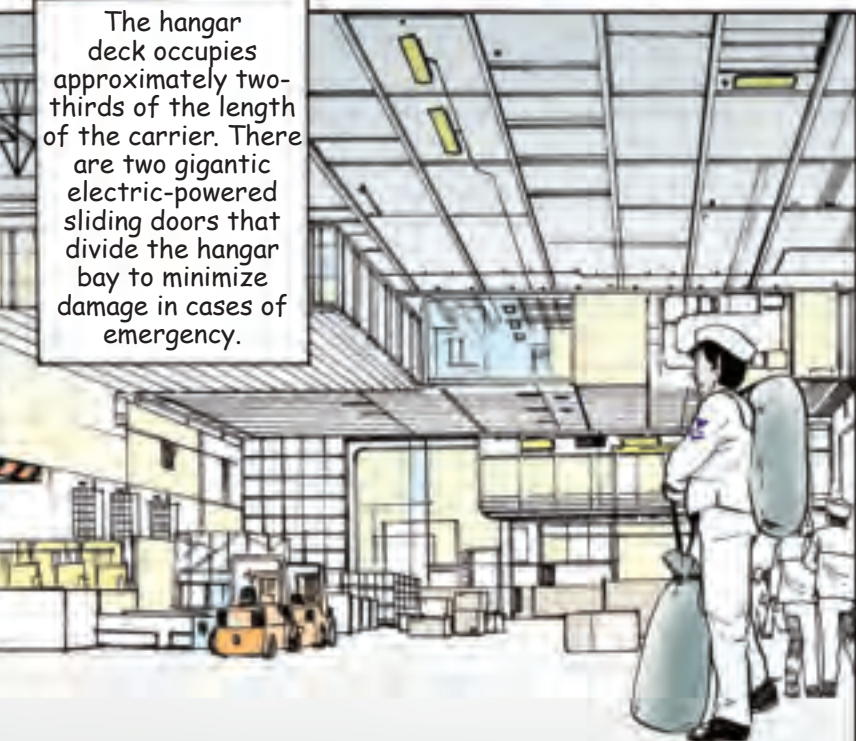
Huh?

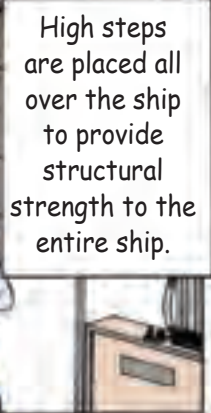
Petty Officer Third Class Jack Ohara?





The hangar deck occupies approximately two-thirds of the length of the carrier. There are two gigantic electric-powered sliding doors that divide the hangar bay to minimize damage in cases of emergency.

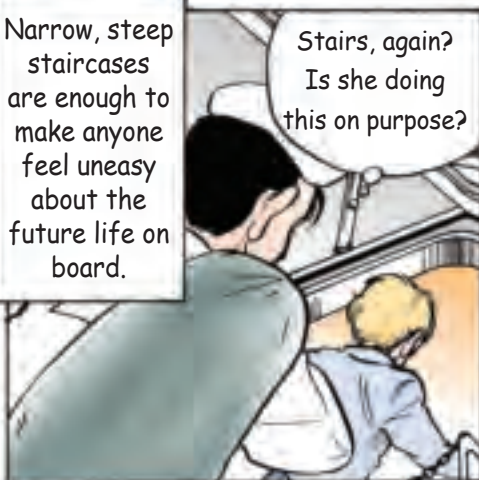








Narrow, steep staircases are enough to make anyone feel uneasy about the future life on board.



Stairs, again?
Is she doing this on purpose?



Hmm, this area is full of "warking party." Let's go this way.



.. we haven't been here yet, then.

we've only come down three times, so ...

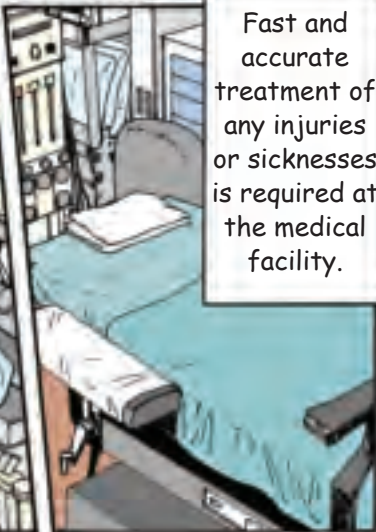
Um ...



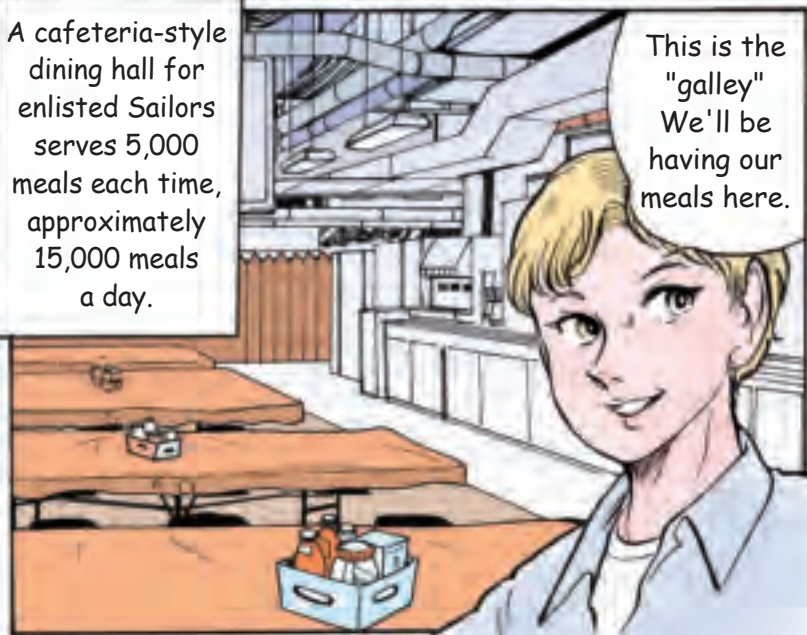
A dentist is available there as well, making this warship completely self-contained.



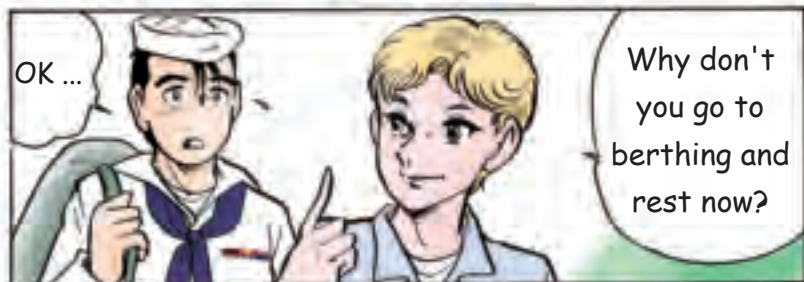
Fast and accurate treatment of any injuries or sicknesses is required at the medical facility.



A cafeteria-style dining hall for enlisted Sailors serves 5,000 meals each time, approximately 15,000 meals a day.



This is the "galley" We'll be having our meals here.





So then I headed to my one and only personal space.

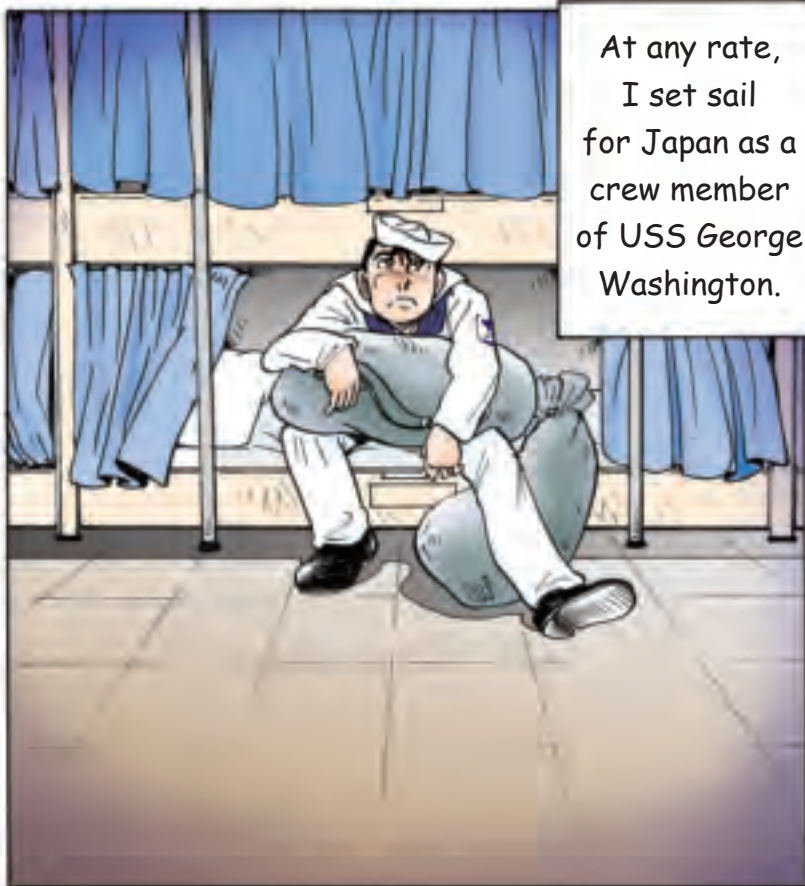
Inside a curtain that protects my privacy lies a startlingly tight space.

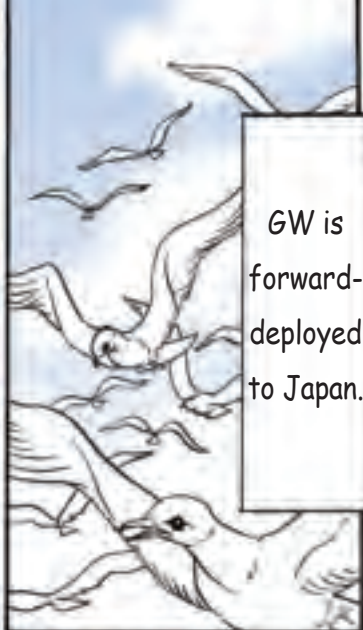
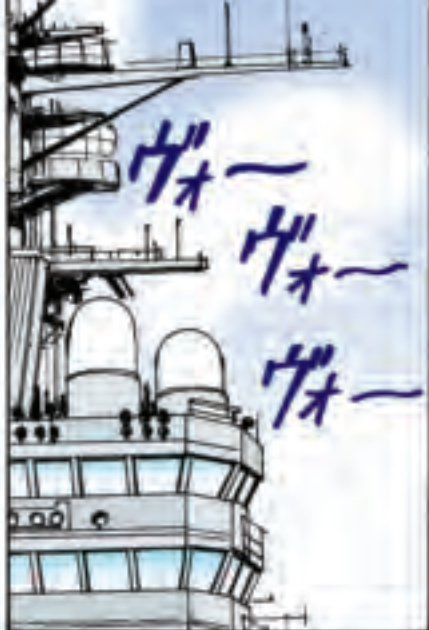


What was given to me was the bottom rack of a triple bunk bed.



There's a storage space under the rack, and there's also a stand up locker.





GW is forward-deployed to Japan.



Not only does the heart of GW have approximately a 50-year lifespan, it efficiently provides stable energy and doesn't require re-fueling.

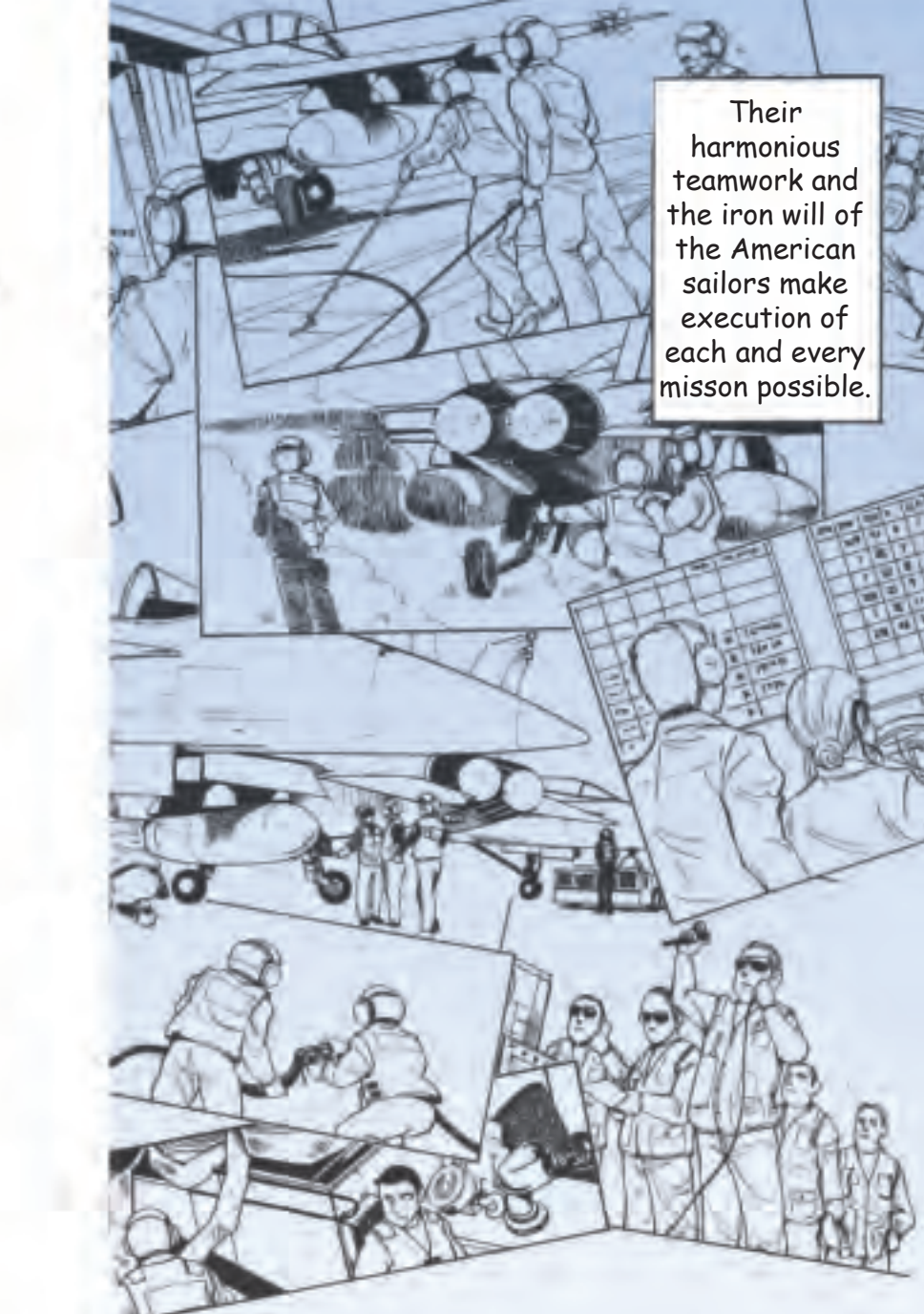




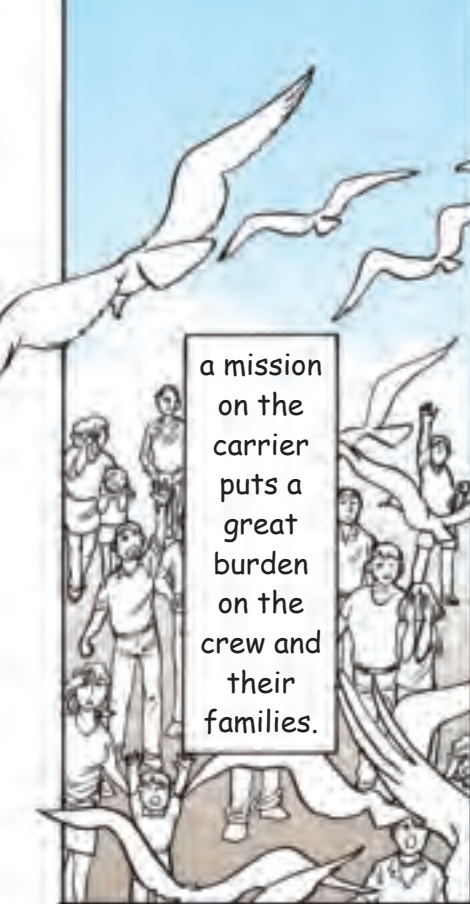
Considering the lifespan of the vessel, it could be said that GW can virtually sail infinitely.

Still, what moves that vessel is people.

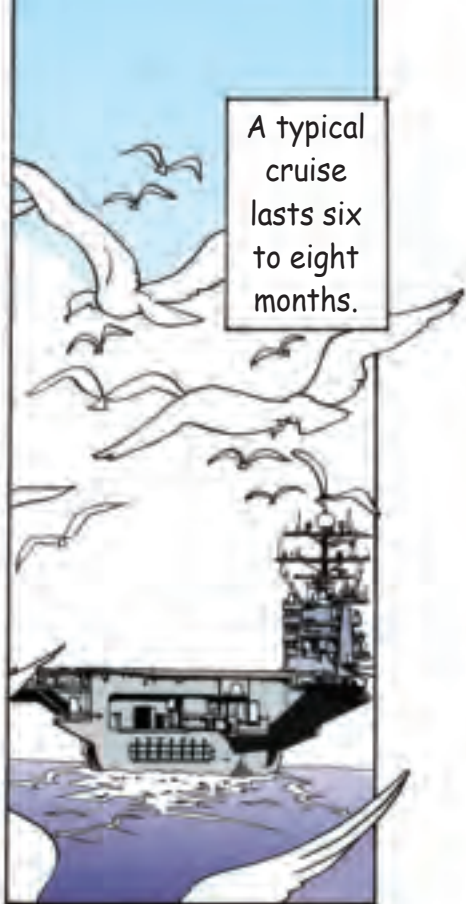




Their
harmonious
teamwork and
the iron will of
the American
sailors make
execution of
each and every
mission possible.



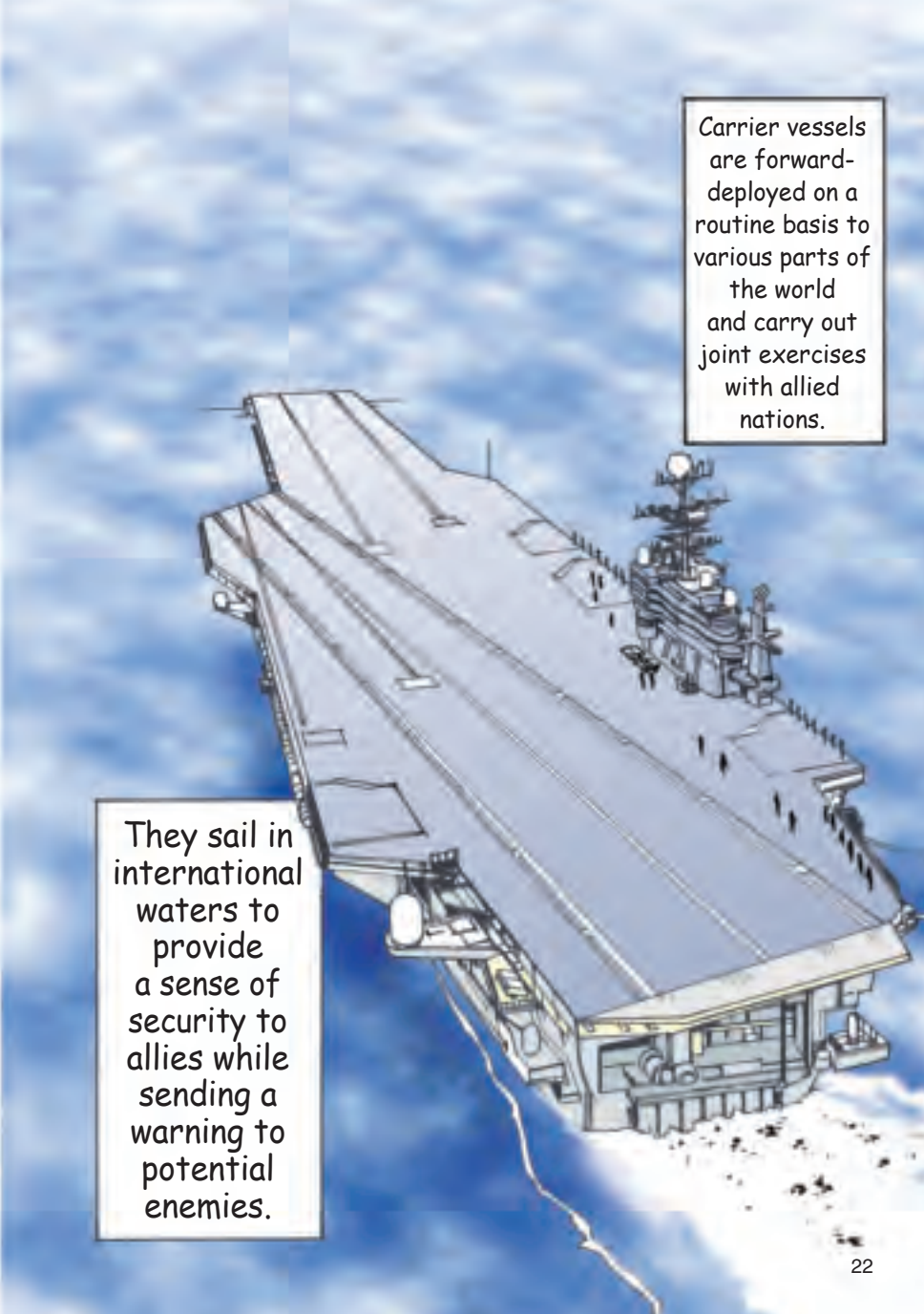
a mission
on the
carrier
puts a
great
burden
on the
crew and
their
families.



A typical
cruise
lasts six
to eight
months.



While GW
is on cruise,
families
reside in
Japan.

An illustration of a large aircraft carrier sailing on the ocean. The carrier is shown from a high-angle, side-on perspective, moving towards the right. The deck is a light blue-grey color, and the hull is a darker blue-grey. The ship's superstructure, including the bridge and various antennas, is visible on the right side. The ocean is a deep blue, and the sky is a lighter blue with some white clouds. The carrier is leaving a white wake behind it.

Carrier vessels are forward-deployed on a routine basis to various parts of the world and carry out joint exercises with allied nations.

They sail in international waters to provide a sense of security to allies while sending a warning to potential enemies.

It's a chance for each of us to understand our own duties and to improve our skills.

This voyage isn't just a simple relocation, either.



There!

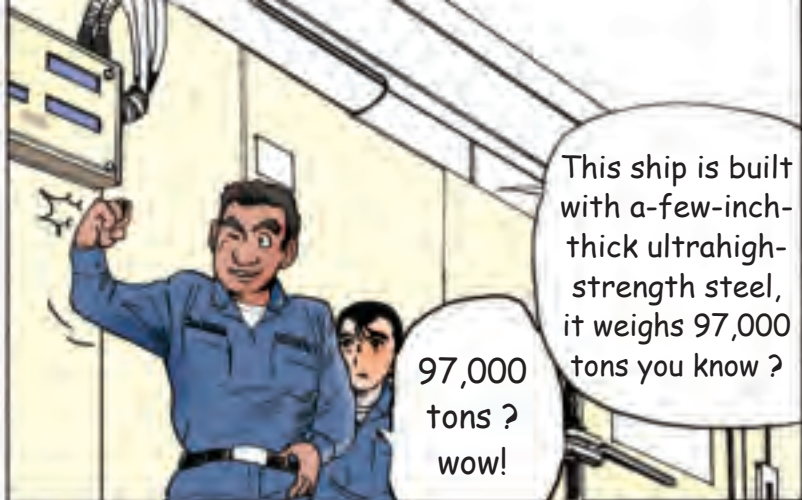
Especially for new crew members, this voyage is a perfect opportunity to join and come together as a team.

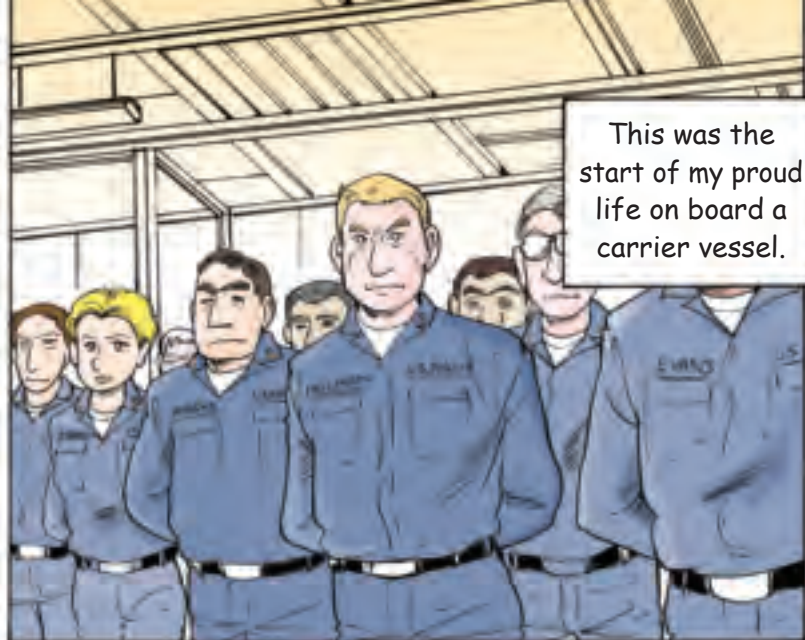


Hey rookie.









This was the start of my proud life on board a carrier vessel.



Hey, where's the new guy?



Is everybody present?







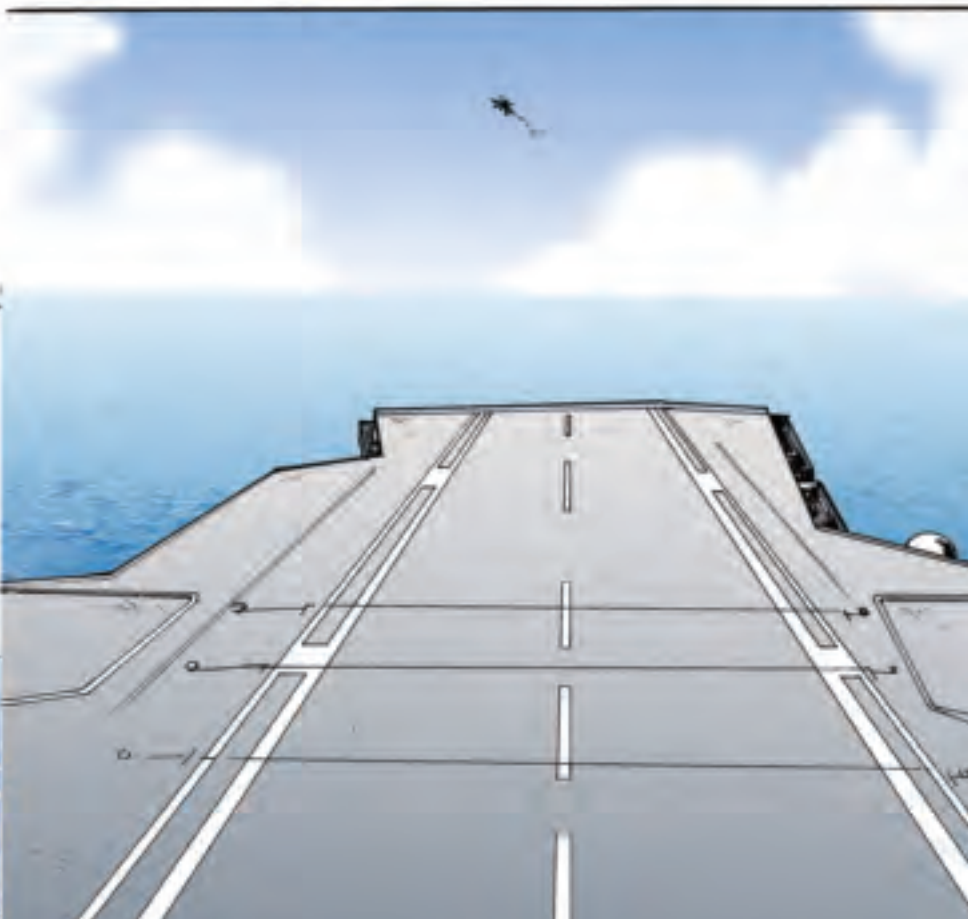
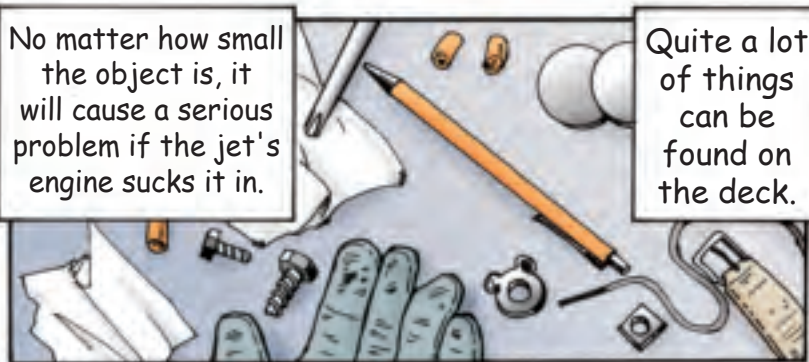
Several dozen to a hundred people form a line and pick up whatever is on the deck.

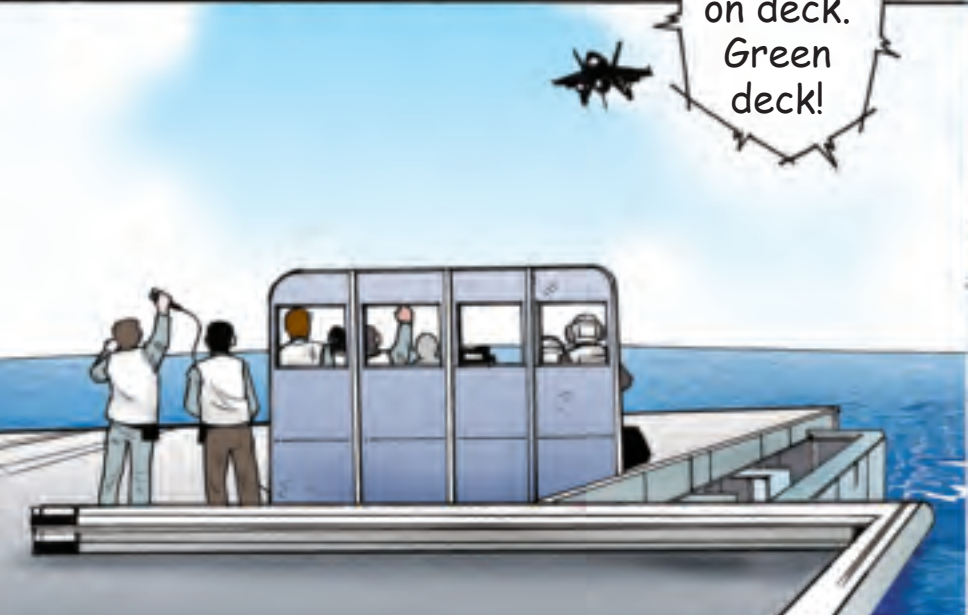
FOD Walk Down _
To put it simply, it's the act of picking up trash on the flight deck.



No matter how small
the object is, it
will cause a serious
problem if the jet's
engine sucks it in.

Quite a lot
of things
can be
found on
the deck.









So its hook
sort of
collides with
the arresting
cable.

A 15-ton aircraft,
traveling at
 300^{+} km/hour,
has to land on
a 100-meter
runway.



The carrier is
like a town; it is
equipped with
anything and
everything ...





... all to
support
the carrier
air wing.



The strength
of a carrier's
existence
lies with its
aircraft wing.

Crew's Galley

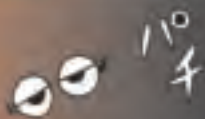






Each day
starts in
darkness.

It's not
because I
work the
night shift.





Members of the crew are either on day or night shift.

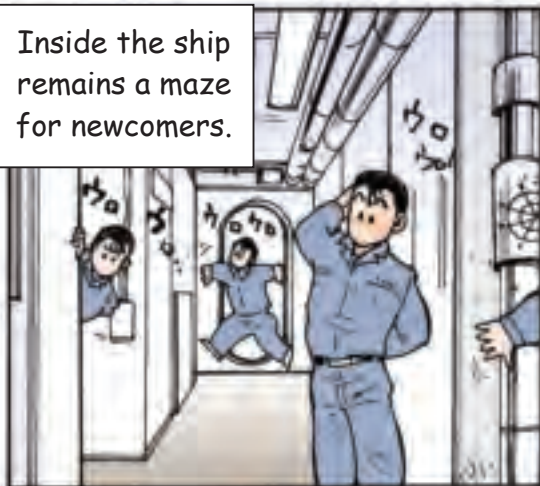


I take a shower, have breakfast, and head out to my work center but ...



That means someone is sleeping in berthing all the time. So we must keep the lights off.

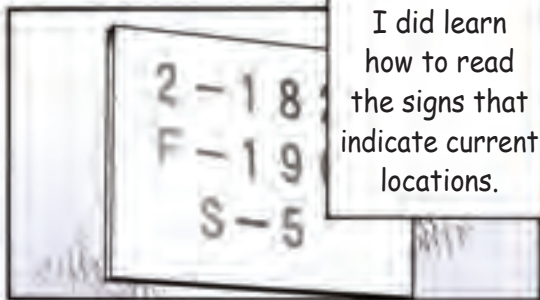
Inside the ship remains a maze for newcomers.



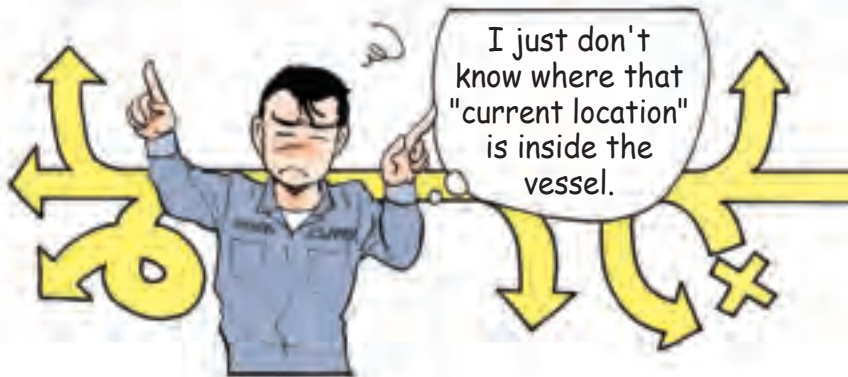
Where am I?

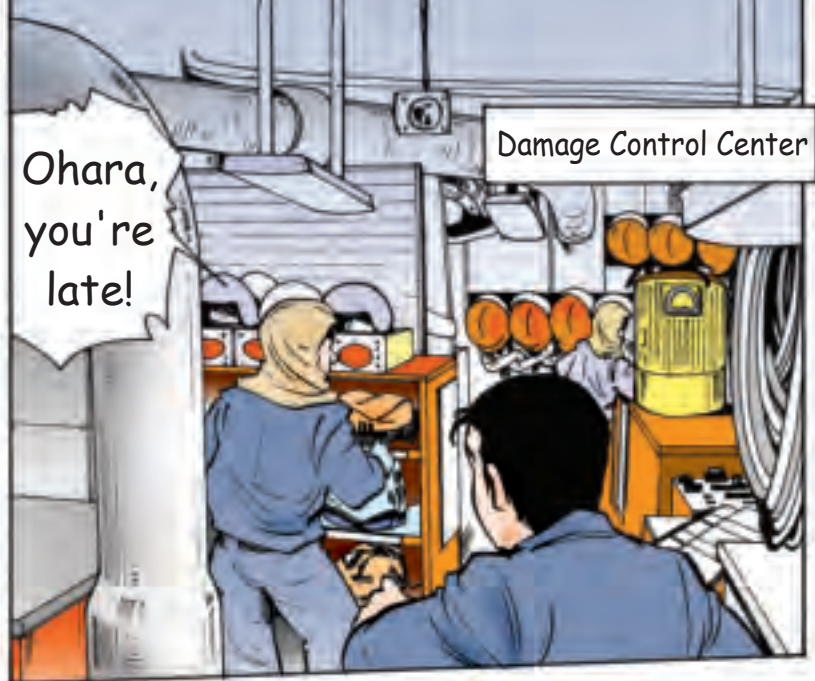


I did learn how to read the signs that indicate current locations.



I just don't know where that "current location" is inside the vessel.

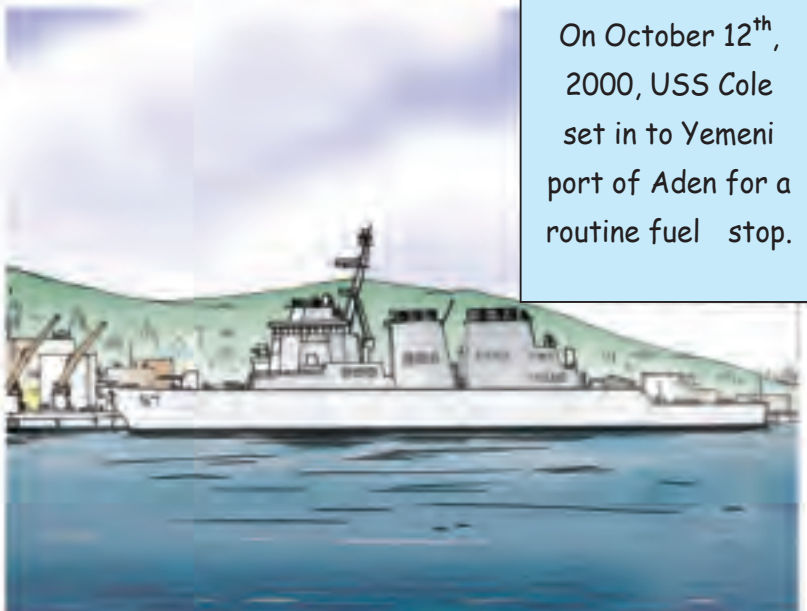






Should the vessel become damaged in case of an accident or during a battle,

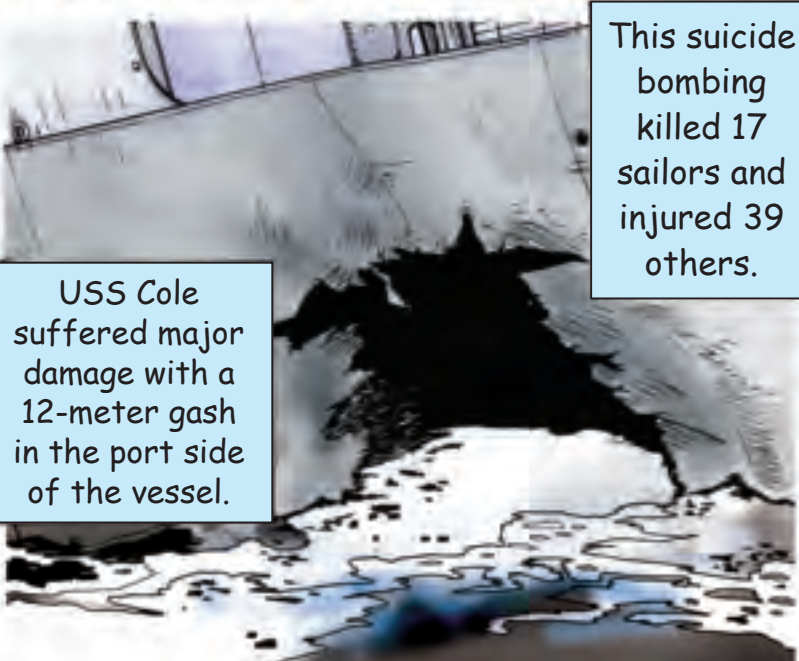
the damage control team minimizes the damage through immediate fire containment and securing water leakage, while providing aid to crew.



On October 12th, 2000, USS Cole set in to Yemeni port of Aden for a routine fuel stop.



A small craft, carrying terrorists with high explosives, collided with the vessel and exploded.

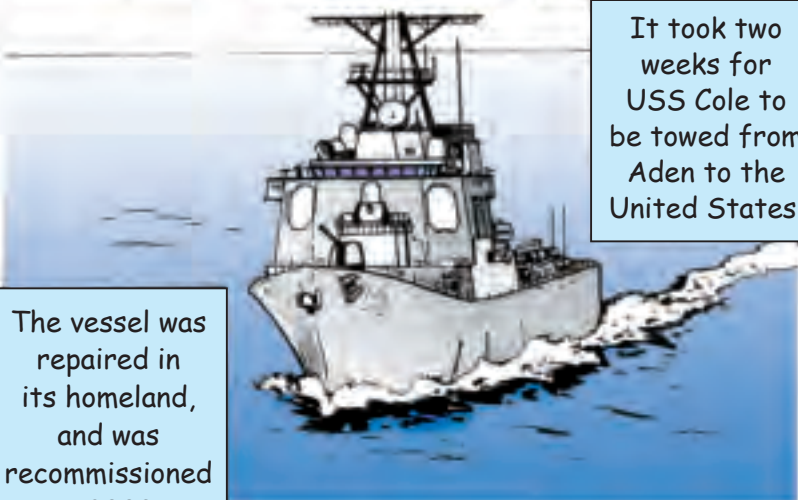


This suicide bombing killed 17 sailors and injured 39 others.

USS Cole suffered major damage with a 12-meter gash in the port side of the vessel.



The heroic crew, however, prevented flooding in the engine department through damage control efforts.



It took two weeks for USS Cole to be towed from Aden to the United States.

The vessel was repaired in its homeland, and was recommissioned in 2003.



In other words, this department is very important to the ship.



Hurry up!
Get all the fire
extinguishers
out!!



Firefighting drills
are extremely
important. In case
of a fire, everyone
must participate in
extinguishing the fire.

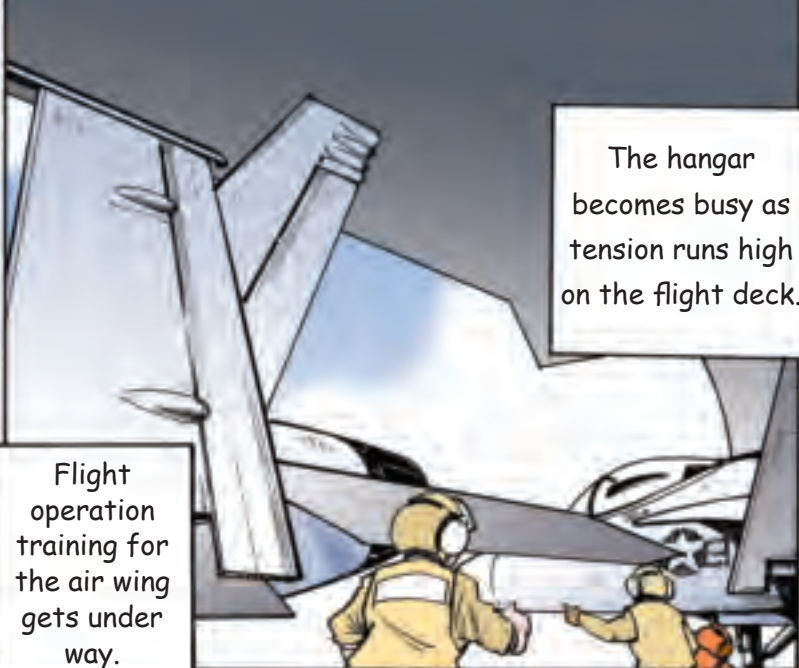


It'll be a
disaster if
the storage
catches fire!


Hurry up
and move!
Move it!!








The hangar becomes busy as tension runs high on the flight deck.



Flight operation training for the air wing gets under way.



Flight quarters, Flight quarters, all personnel don flight and safety gear.

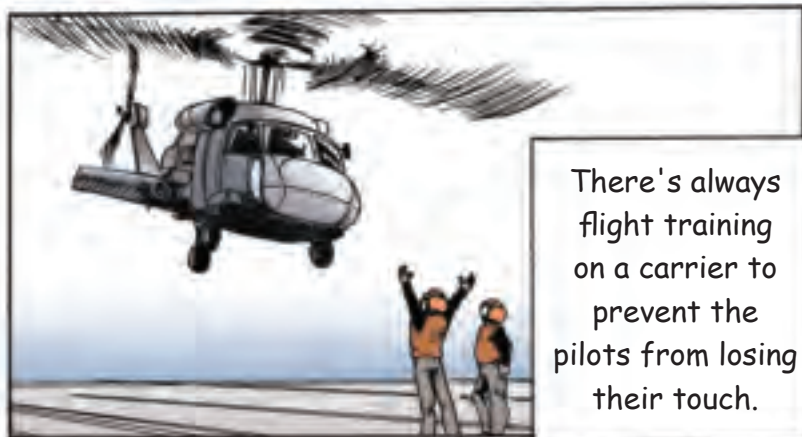


Tighten the strap
on your helmet and
goggles. Wear your
gloves and unroll
your sleeves.



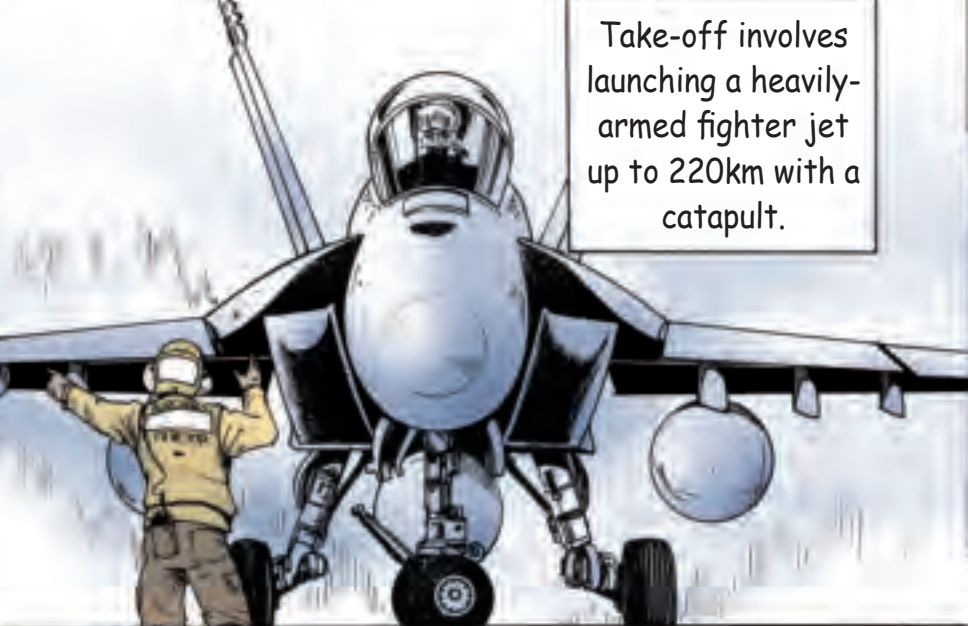
Check the
deck for any
hazardous
materials.





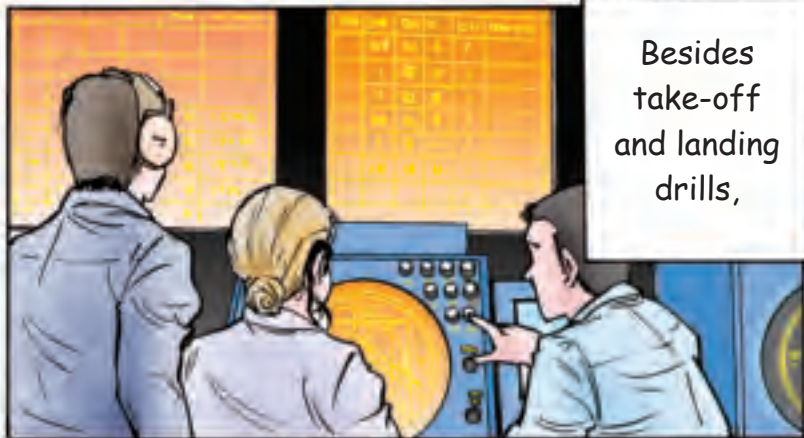
There's always flight training on a carrier to prevent the pilots from losing their touch.

Take-off involves launching a heavily-armed fighter jet up to 220km with a catapult.









Besides
take-off
and landing
drills,

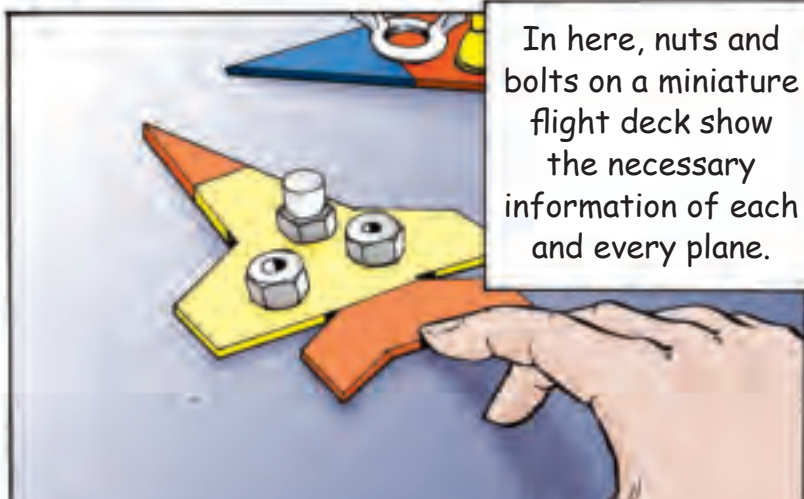
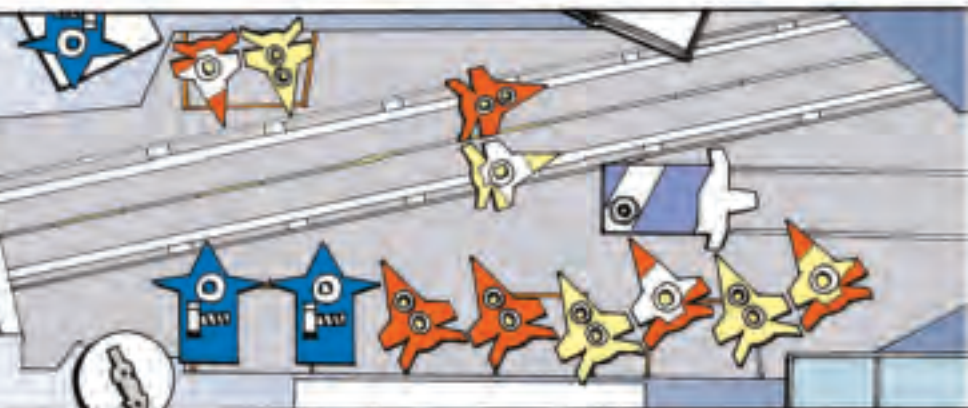
flight operations
also include
attack/defense
system training.



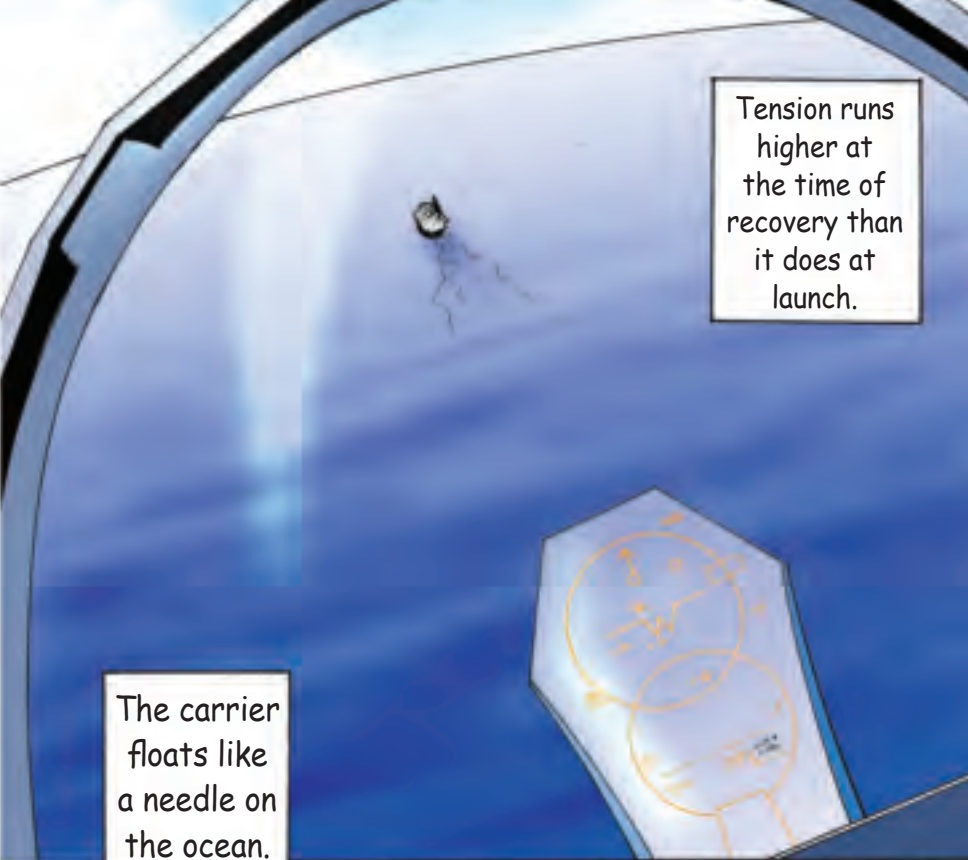
Combat Defense
Command Center
is equipped
with the latest
defense system.



Flight
Operation
Room has
absolutely
nothing
to do with
computers.

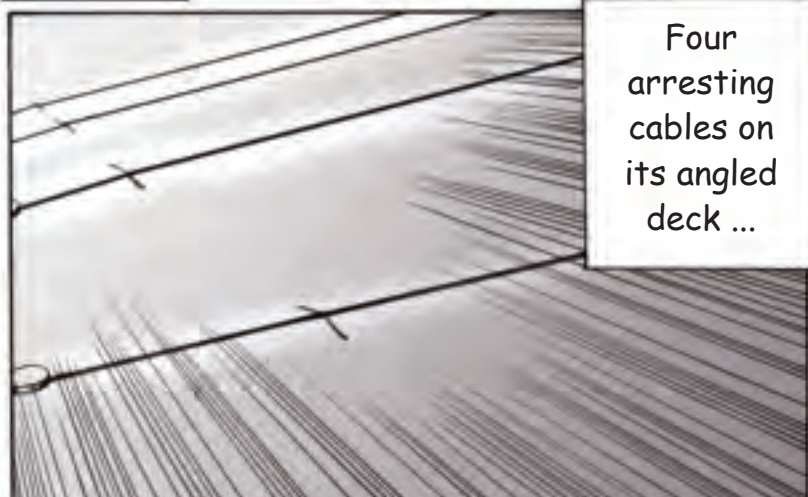


In here, nuts and
bolts on a miniature
flight deck show
the necessary
information of each
and every plane.



Tension runs
higher at
the time of
recovery than
it does at
launch.

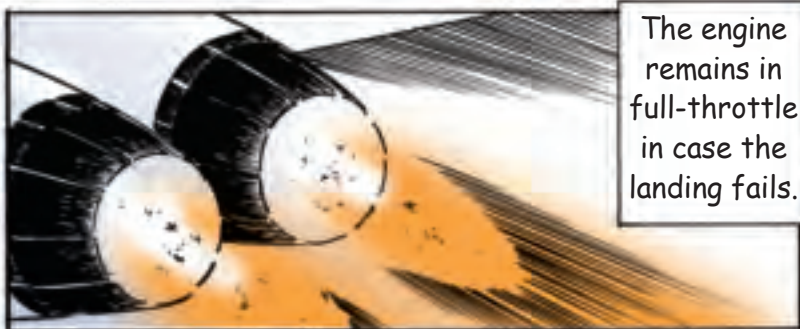
The carrier
floats like
a needle on
the ocean.



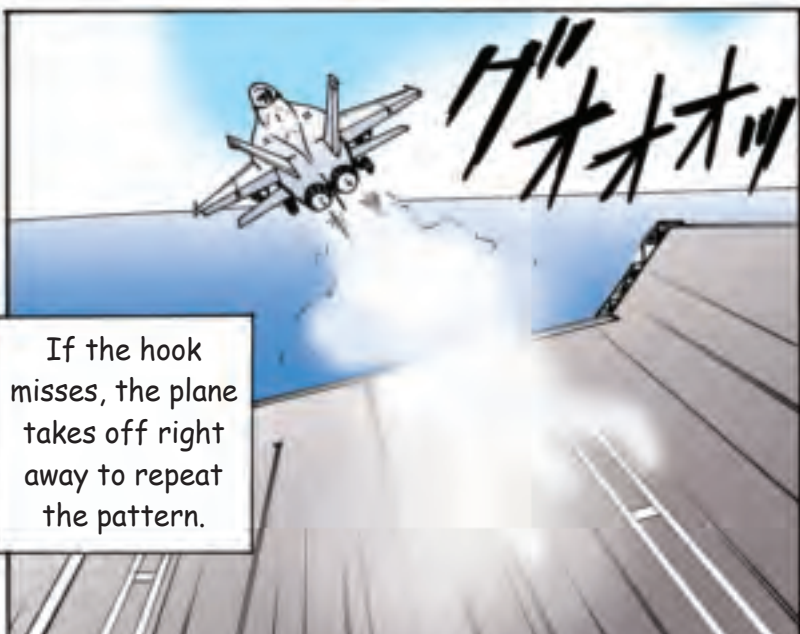
Four
arresting
cables on
its angled
deck ...



... must
catch the
plane's
tail-hook.

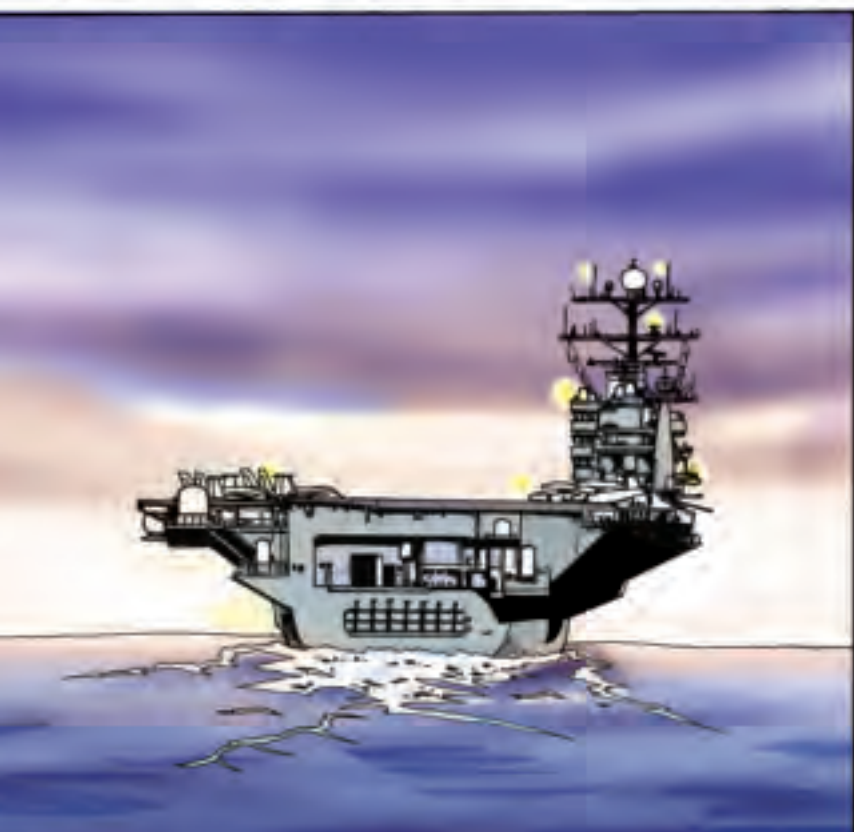


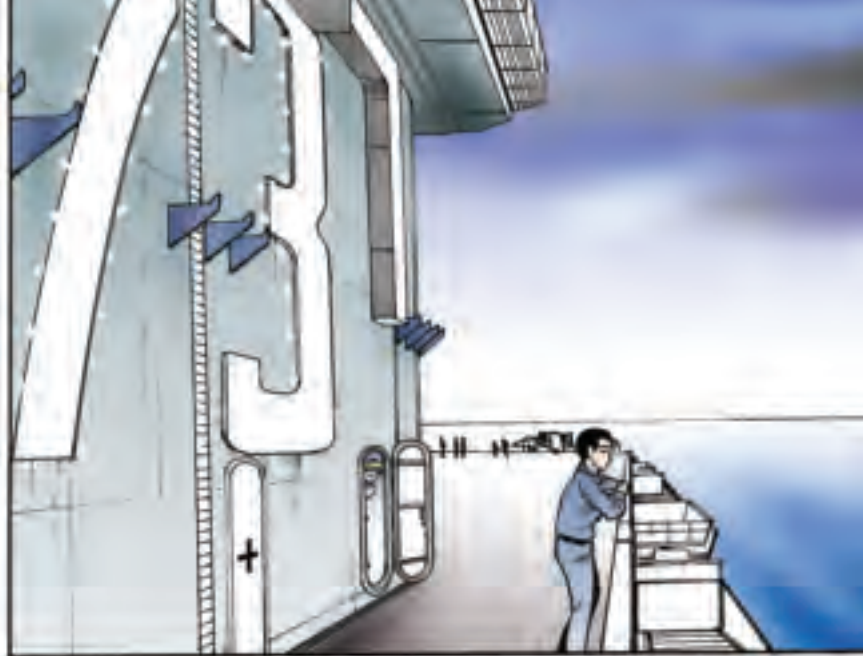
The engine
remains in
full-throttle
in case the
landing fails.



If the hook
misses, the plane
takes off right
away to repeat
the pattern.









He worked at a ranch while attending college. I hear that's when he met my mother, who was the only daughter of the ranch owner.



My father came to study in the United States when he was eighteen.

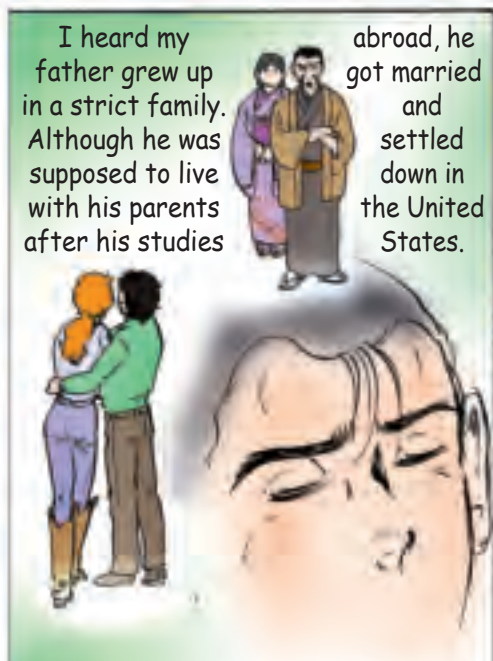
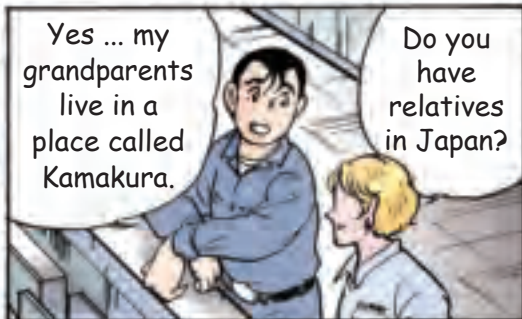
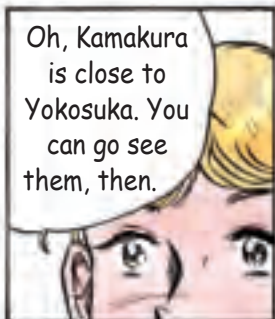
How romantic! How are your parents?

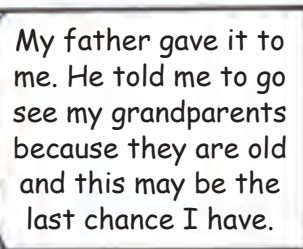


After falling madly in love with each other, they got married and took over the ranch.



They are doing fine. They manage a ranch in Lexington with my older brother.









One of them is the pin. It's been my dream to wear that shiny pin on my chest.

Then, you take an exam. If you pass, you get a pin.



You have to build experience in various departments within the vessel.



What's the second one?



I intend to get one by the time we reach Japan.

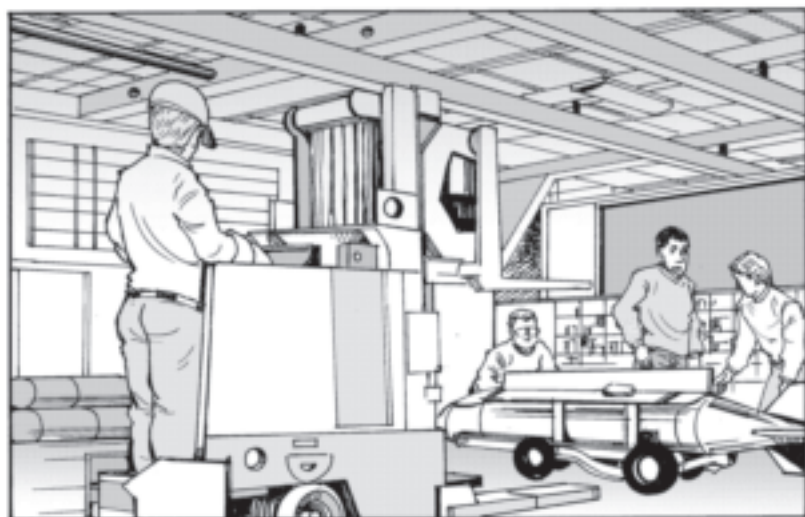
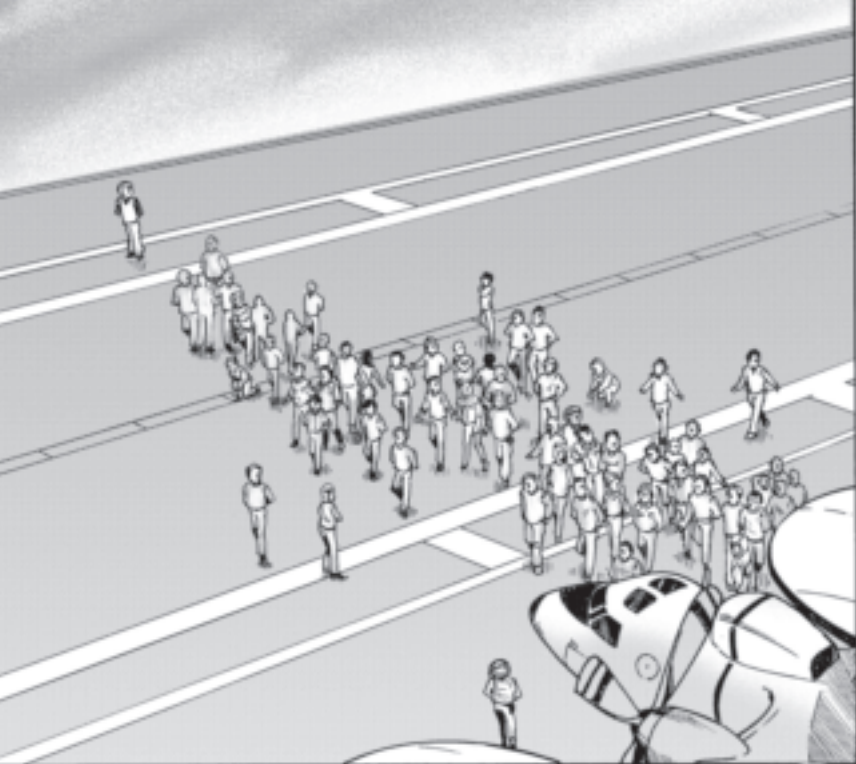


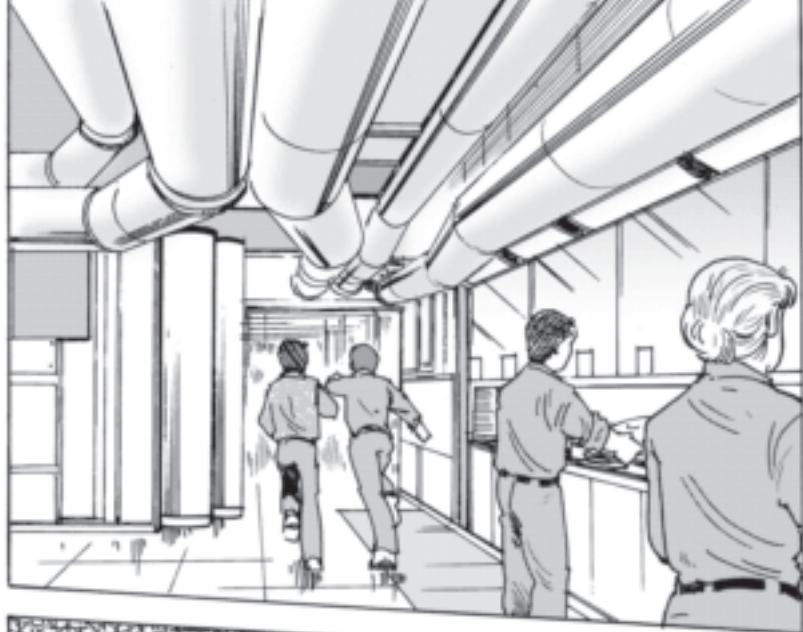
FUJI ... ?

That would be Fujisan.







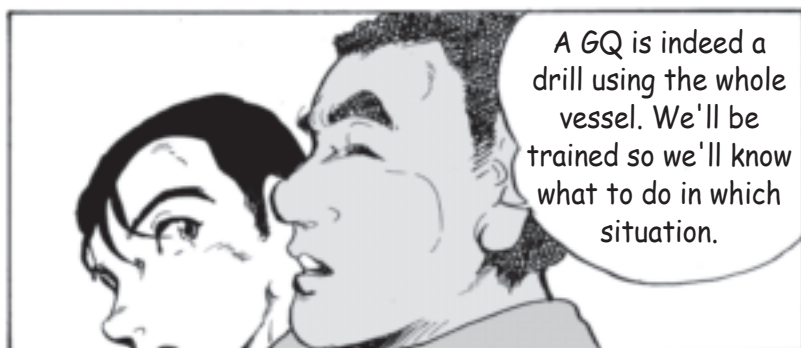




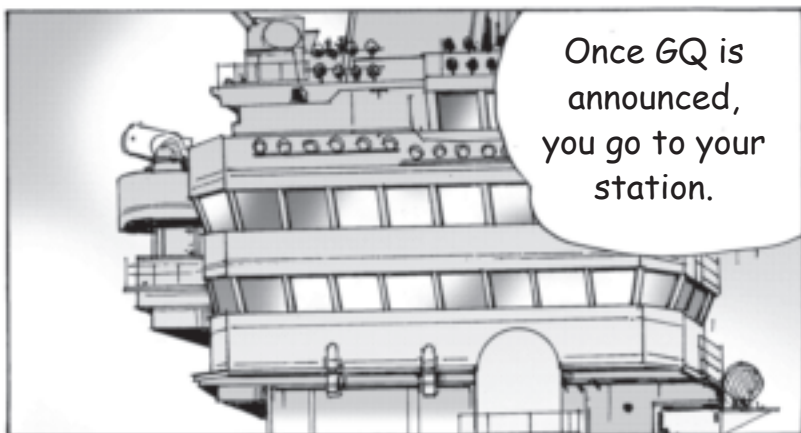


I do know
it's a drill
for the
whole crew.

Oh, that's
right. This
is your first
time!



A GQ is indeed a
drill using the whole
vessel. We'll be
trained so we'll know
what to do in which
situation.



Once GQ is
announced,
you go to your
station.

It might last
only for two
hours, or it
might go on until
night ...

The question is ...
we just don't
know when the
drill will end.

It started suddenly.



Ha,
ha ...



Possible
missile
strike!

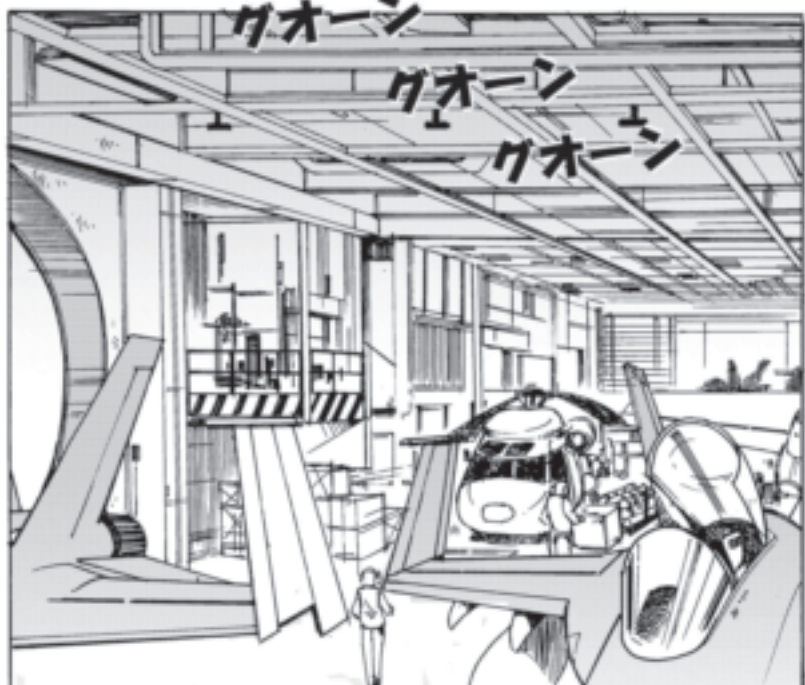
An unidentified
fighter jet
is currently
approaching GW!

This is the
Captain of
USS George
Washington.





Commencing
GQ!



This is a
drill.

This is a
drill.



All hands man
your battle
stations!













From then
on...



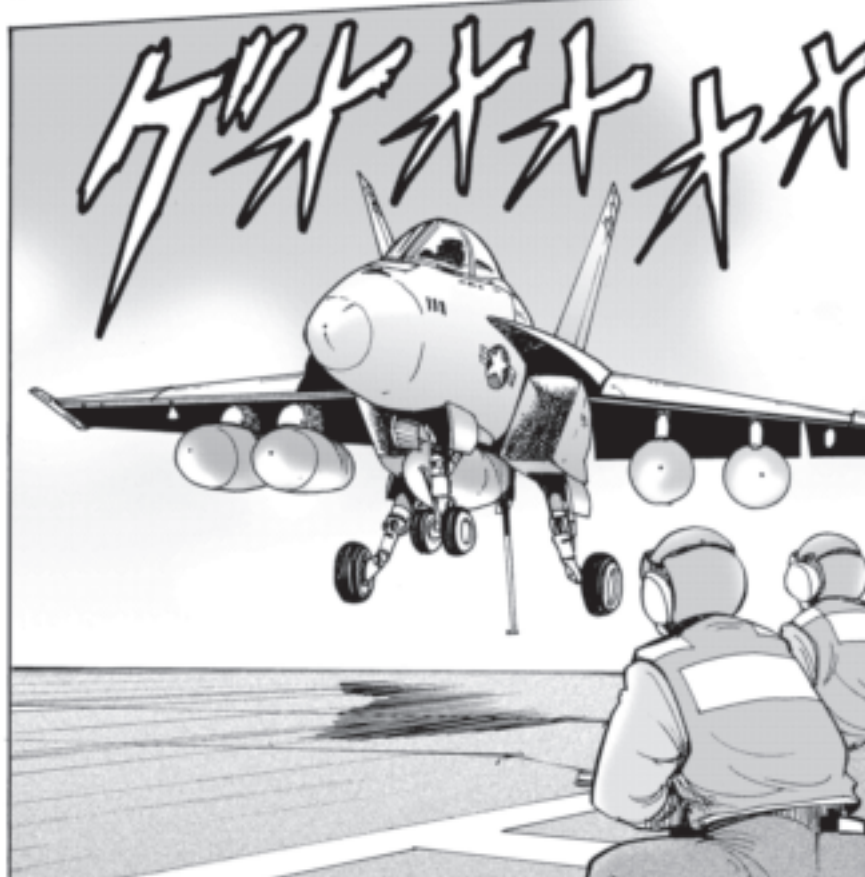
I played
dead very
well.

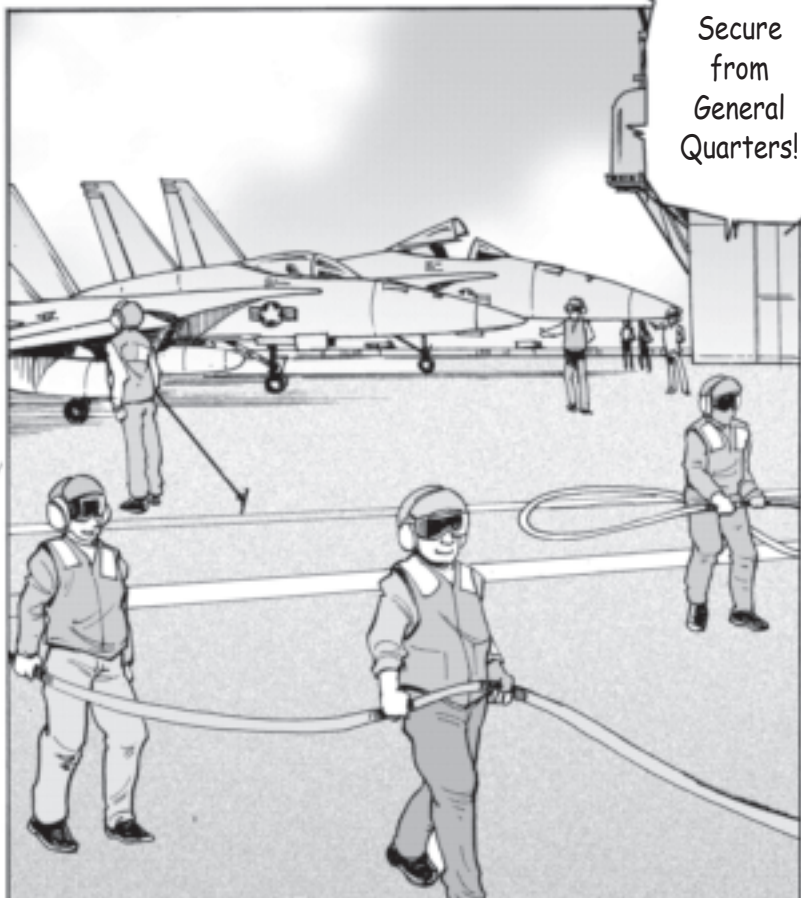
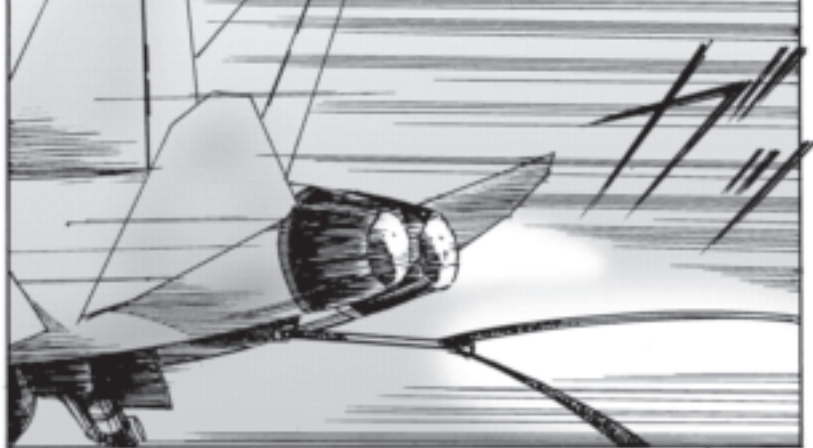


I could
switch with
you.

@#!#!
you're
heavy.

Hey, a
corpse
shouldn't
talk.



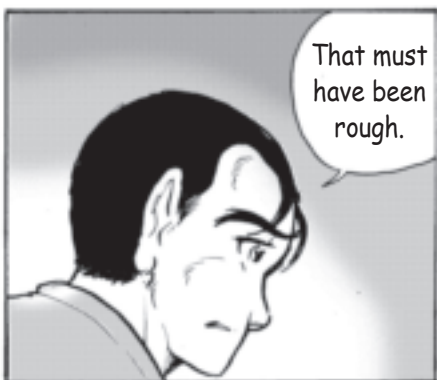
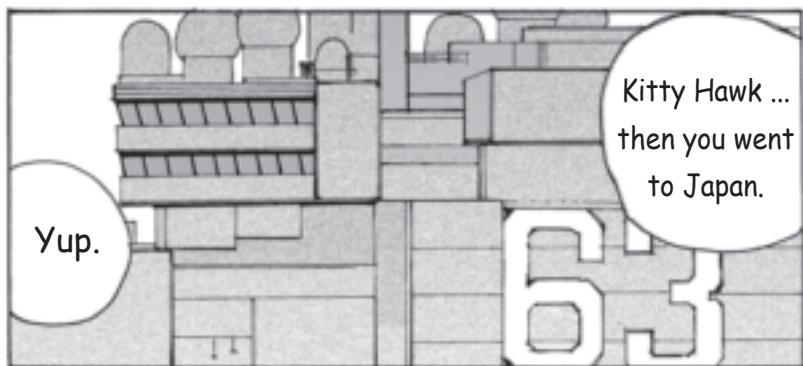


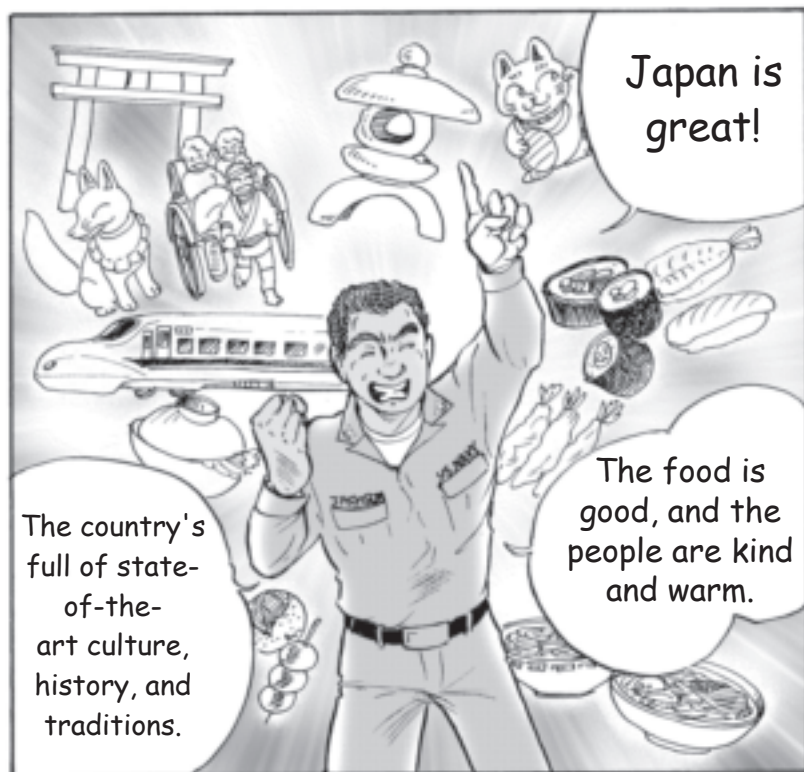
Secure
from
General
Quarters!

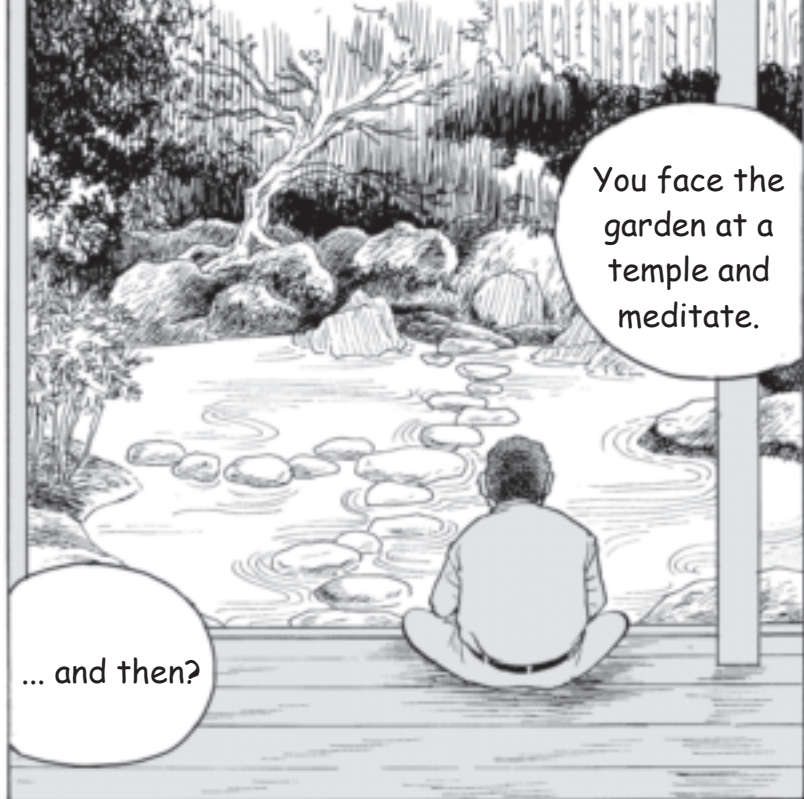










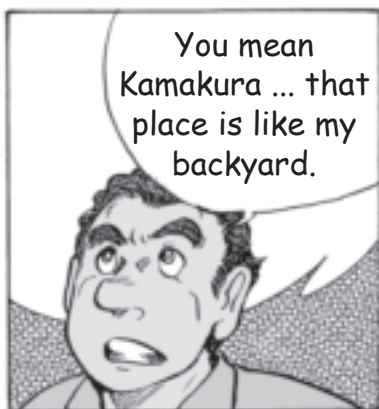




Do you
know
Kamakura?



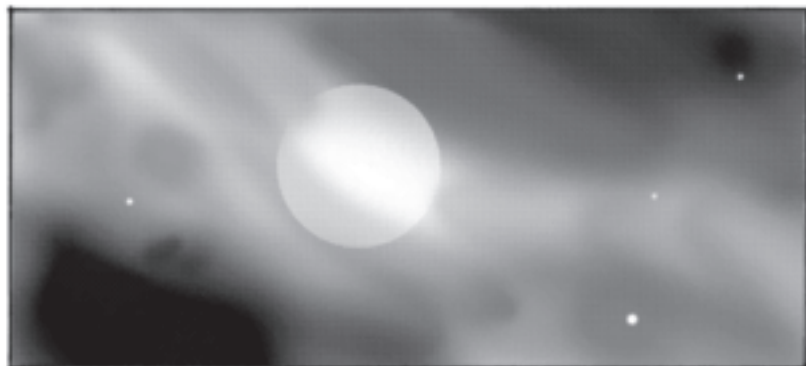
My grandparents
live there ...
though I've
never met them
before.

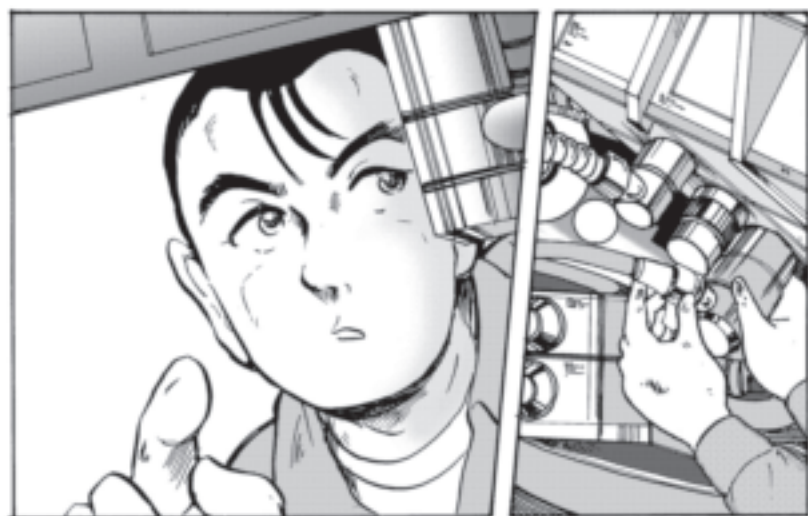
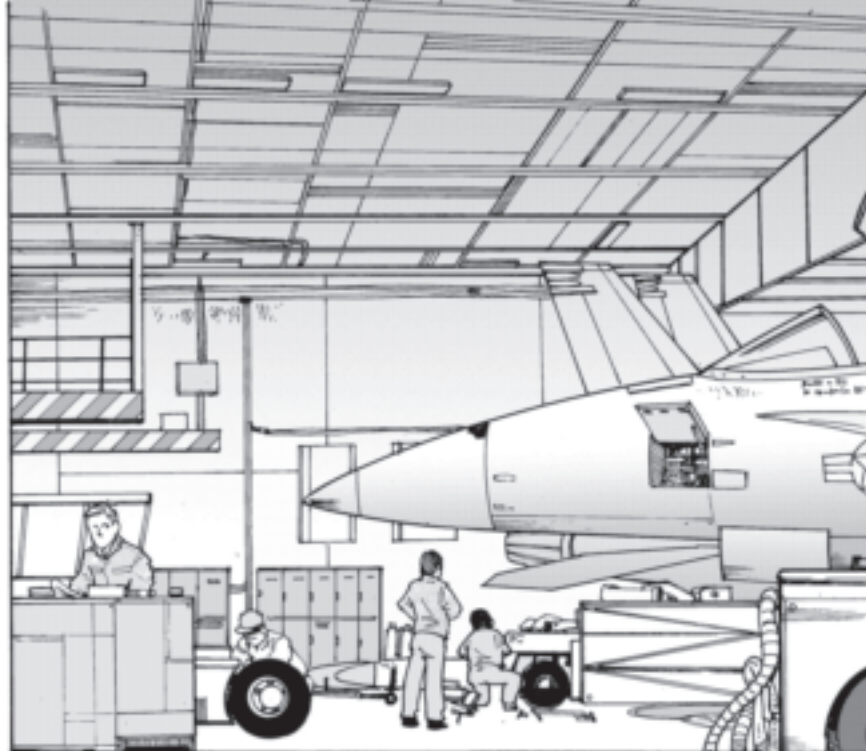


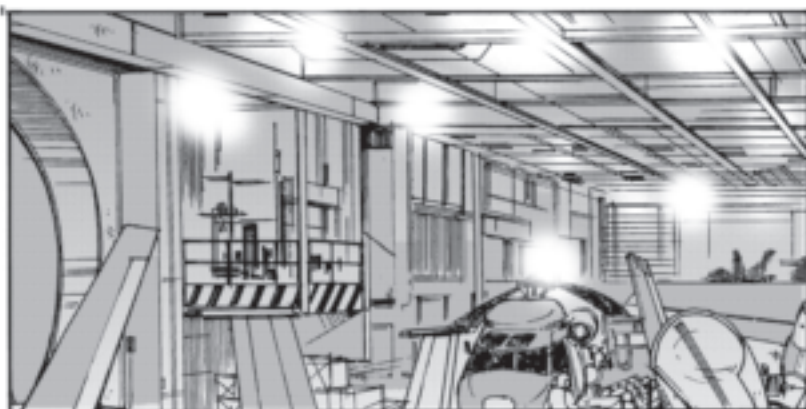
You mean
Kamakura ... that
place is like my
backyard.



Why do
you ask?







OK, I'm done
here. I don't think
these parts need
to be changed.



Can you
reach it?

Yes, I'm
almost
there ...



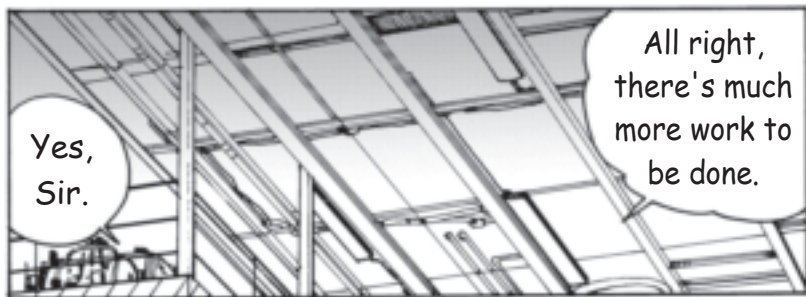
The screw
is loose at
the joint.

You know,
you're
pretty
handy.

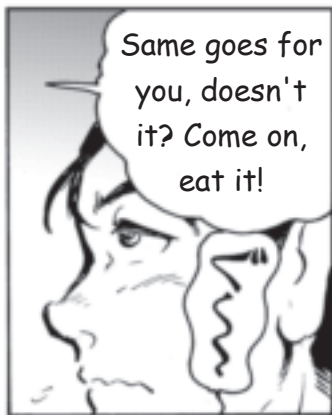
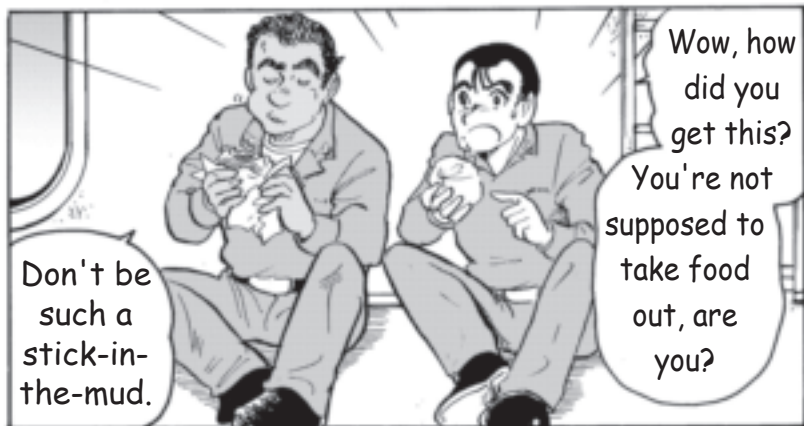


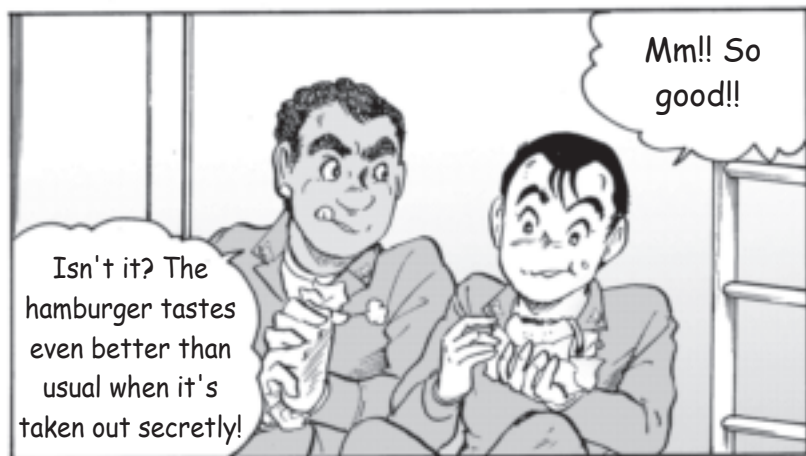
Hmm ...











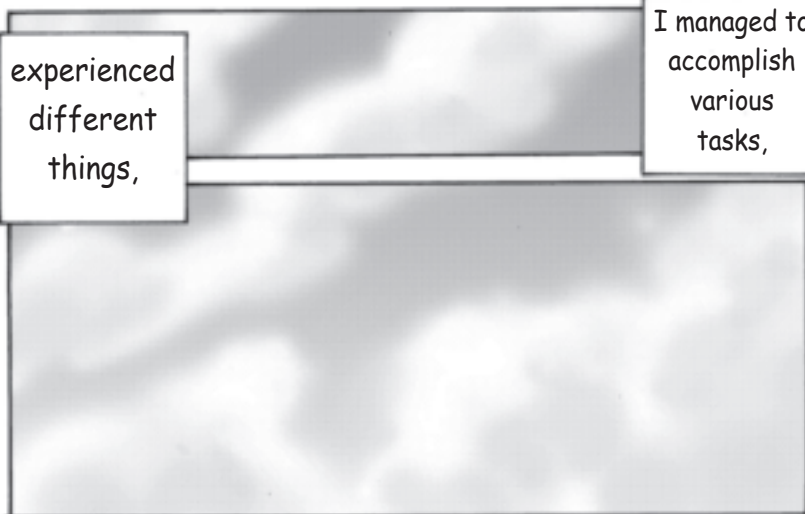


MAA _
Officers who
maintain order
onboard ship.





Although
there were
occasional
accidents,



experienced
different
things,

I managed to
accomplish
various
tasks,

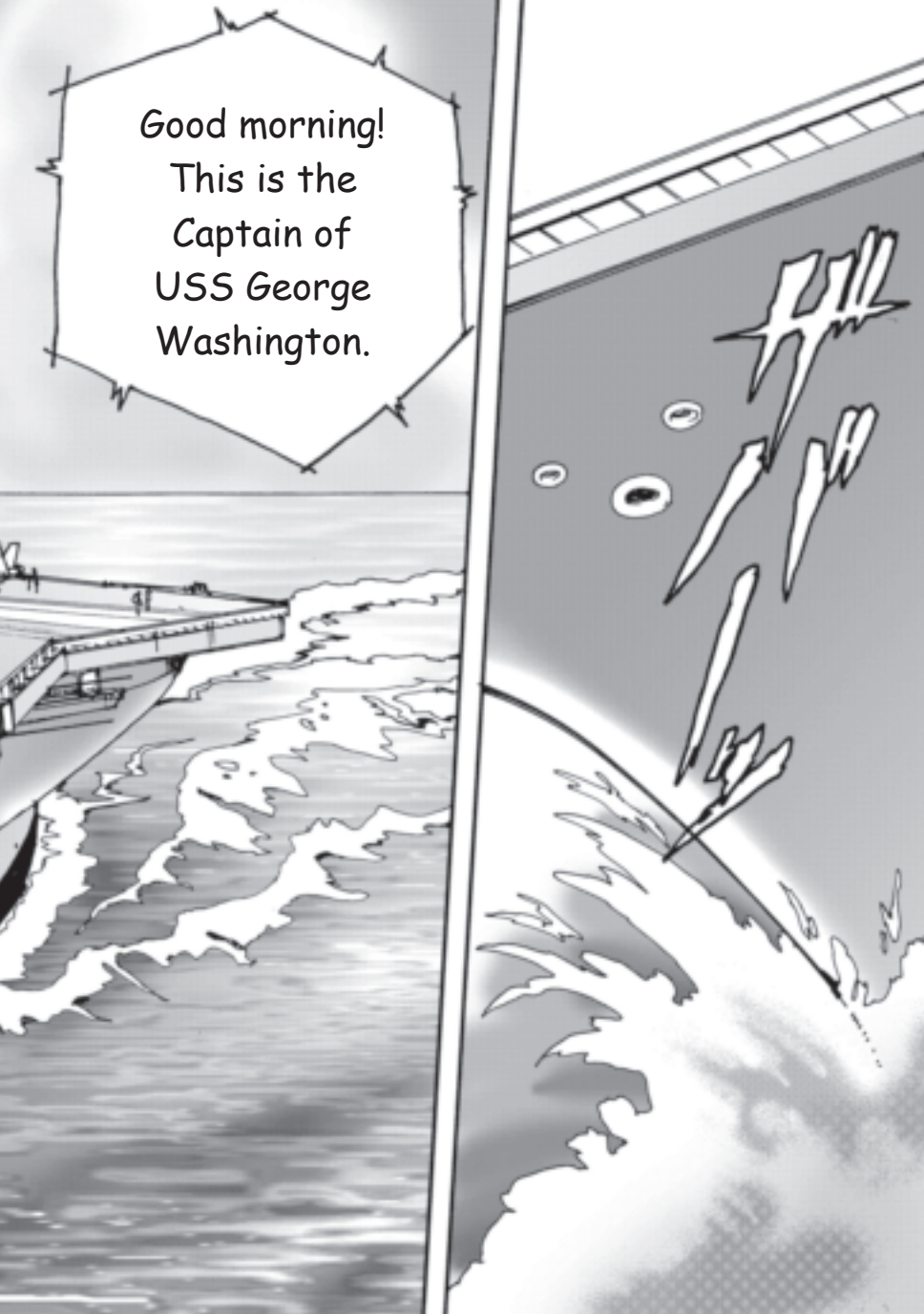


attended seminars to learn about Japan and its laws, language and traditions

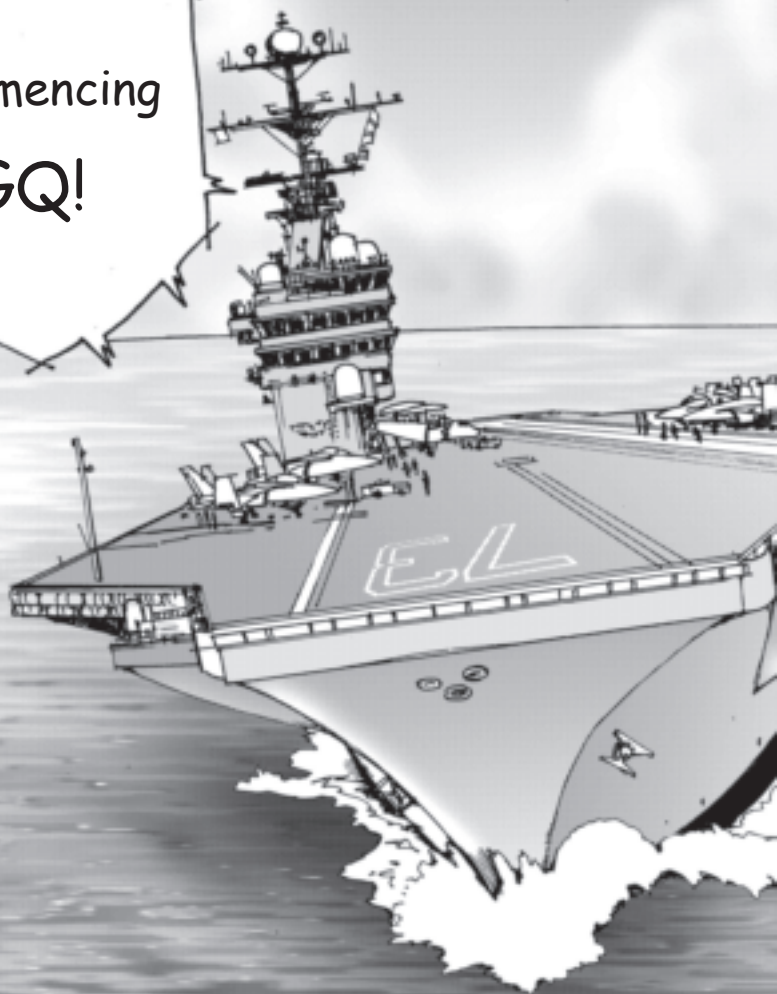
... and before I knew it, I became accustomed to ship board life.

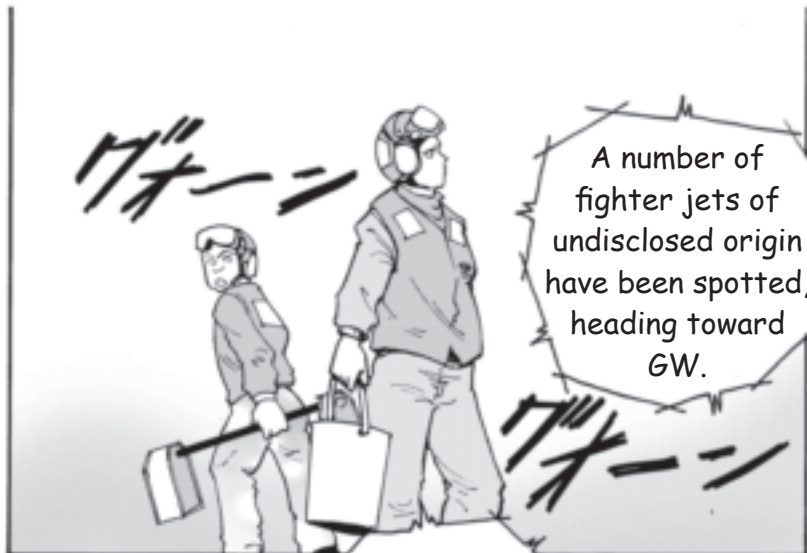


Good morning!
This is the
Captain of
USS George
Washington.



Commencing
GQ!





A number of fighter jets of undisclosed origin have been spotted, heading toward GW.



All hands man battle stations!

Possible missile strike.





This is a
drill.

This is a
drill !!



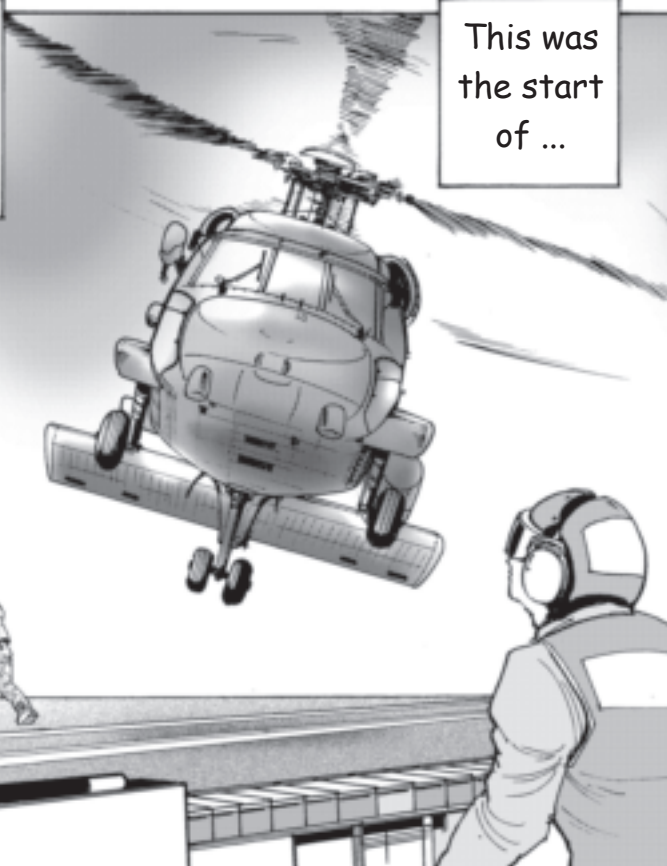


コウ...

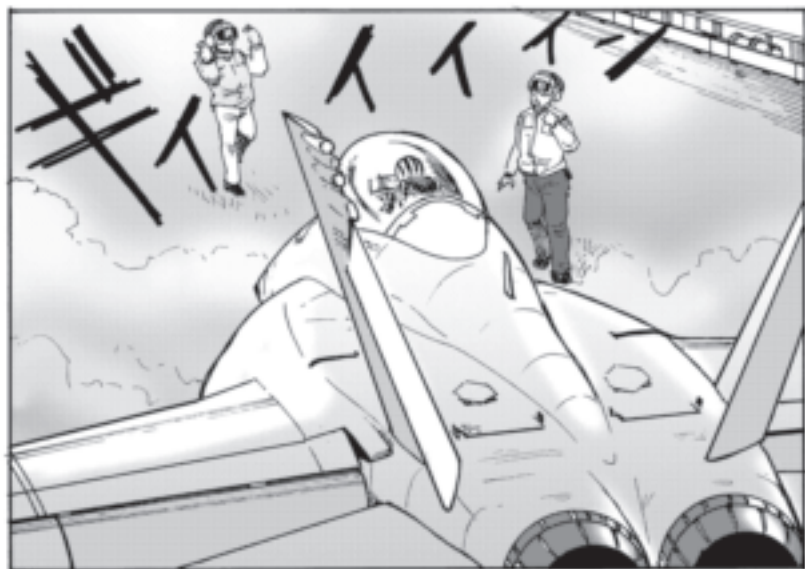


GW pointed
its bow into
the wind.

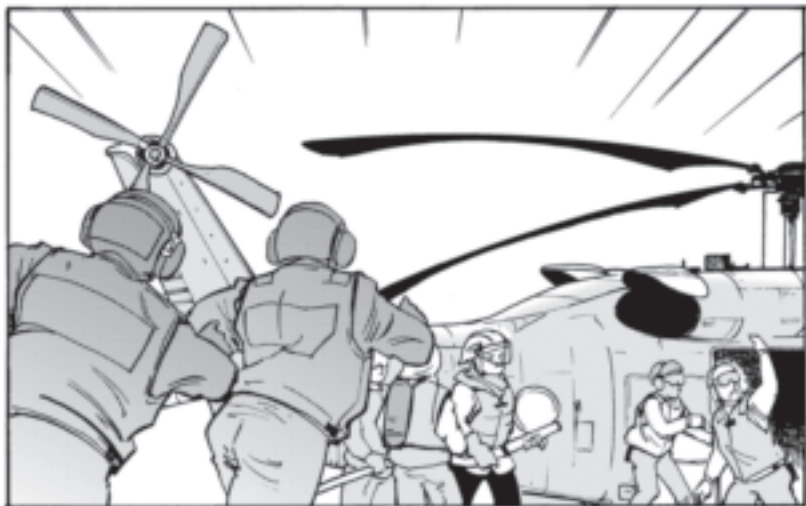
... the
longest GQ
during my
first voyage
at sea.

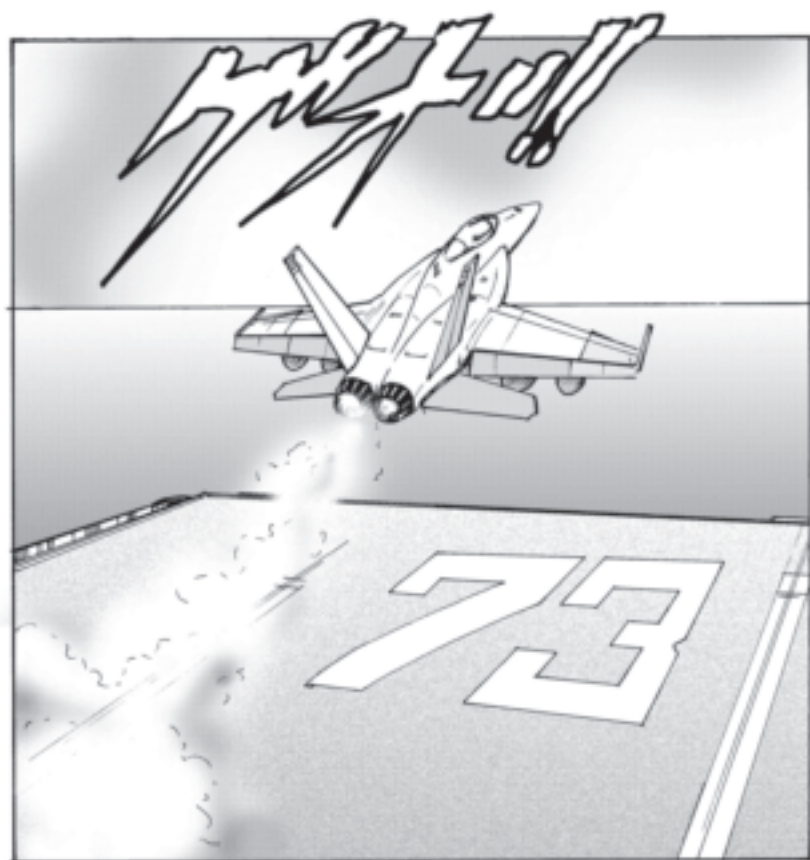


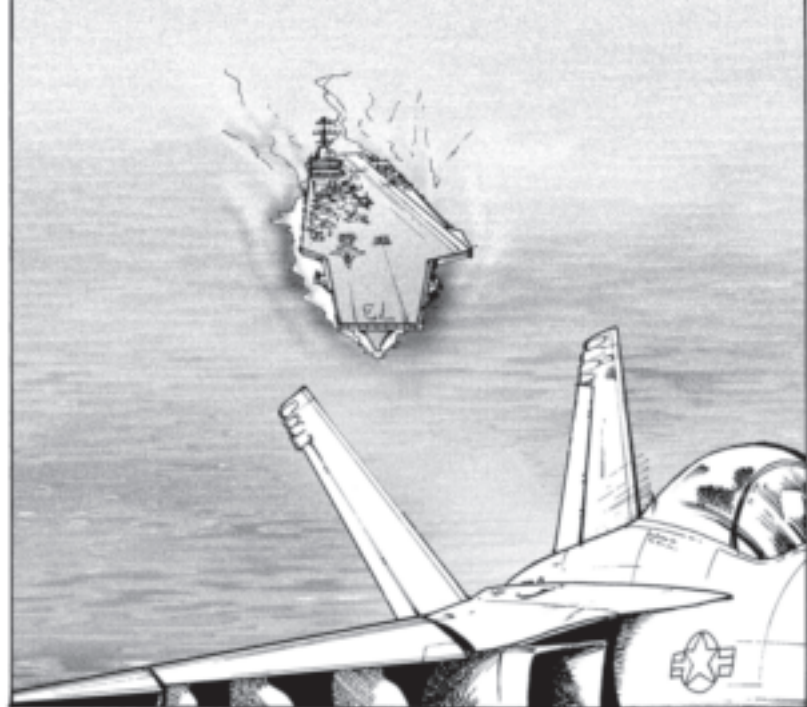
This was
the start
of ...





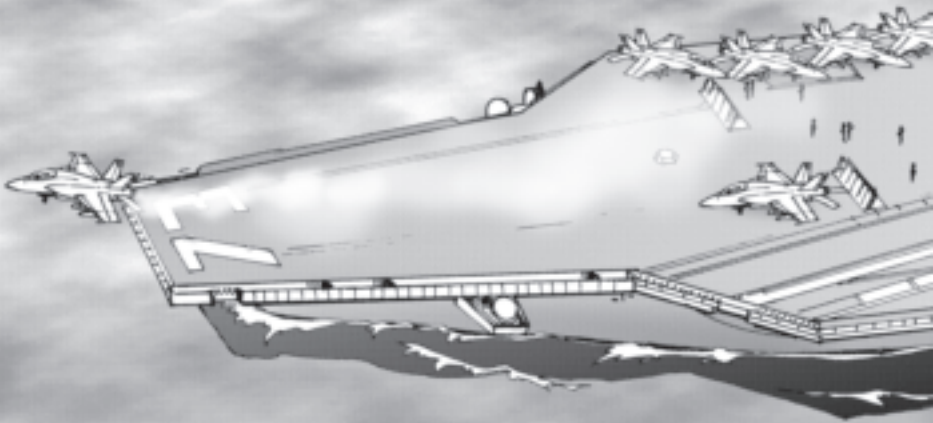


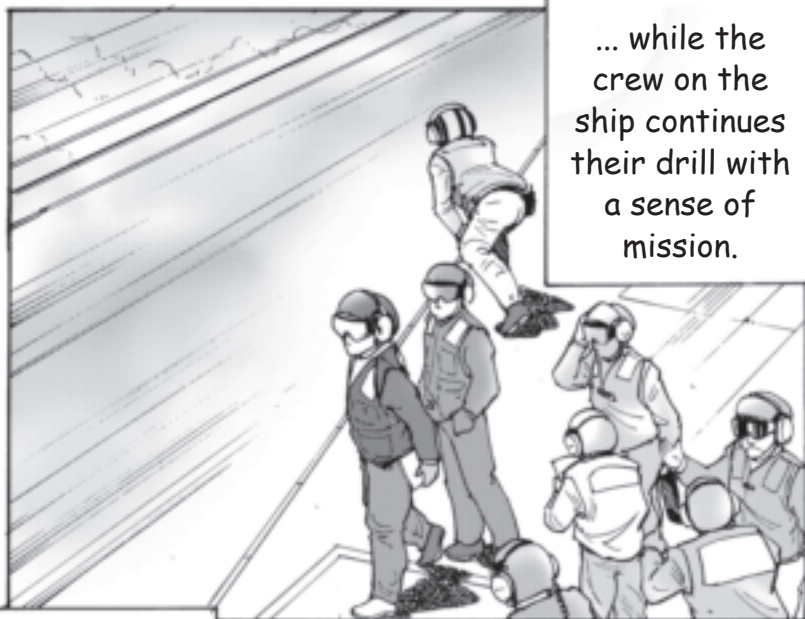




The drill goes
on with no
end in sight.

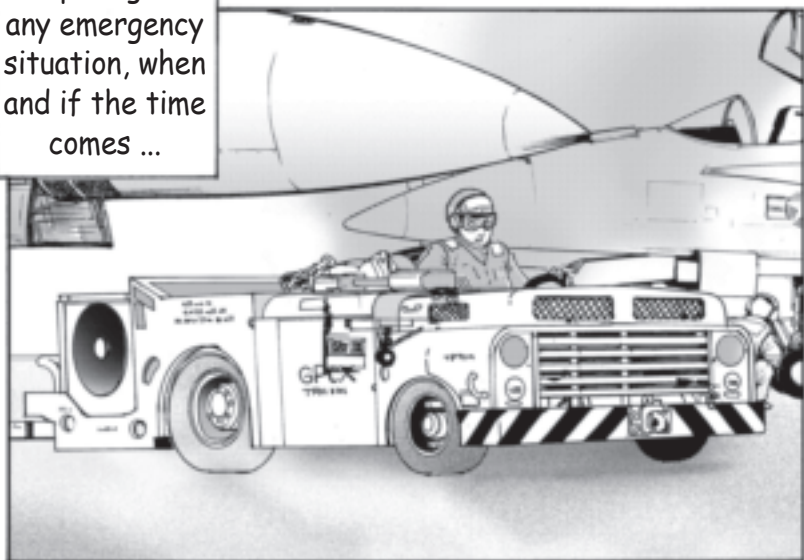
Pilots take off
in their fighter
jets, then return to land on
George Washington ...





... while the crew on the ship continues their drill with a sense of mission.

Preparing for any emergency situation, when and if the time comes ...



It's always
good to be
prepared.

... it doesn't
matter even
if this drill
ends up being
just a drill.



They keep us
prepared for
any emergency
or damage.

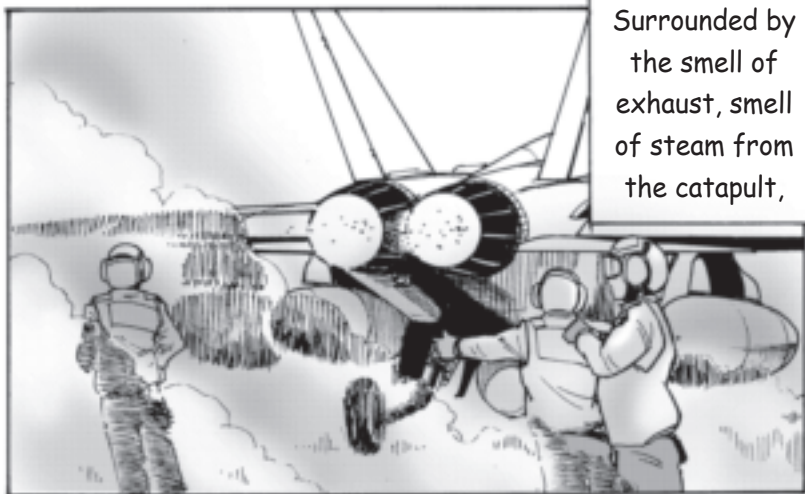
Rather, a
drill is well
worth the
time



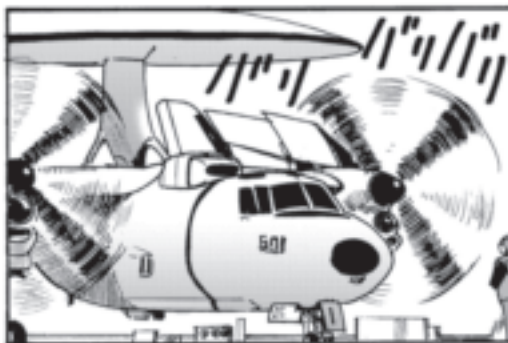


And you
four back
there,
wait with a
stretcher!!

You five, go
with fire
extinguishers
and hurry!



Surrounded by
the smell of
exhaust, smell
of steam from
the catapult,

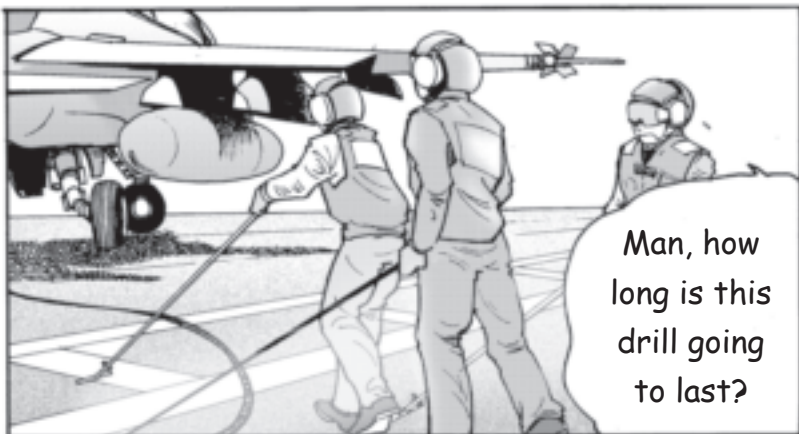


roar of jets and
propeller planes,
and metal-
clashing noise ...

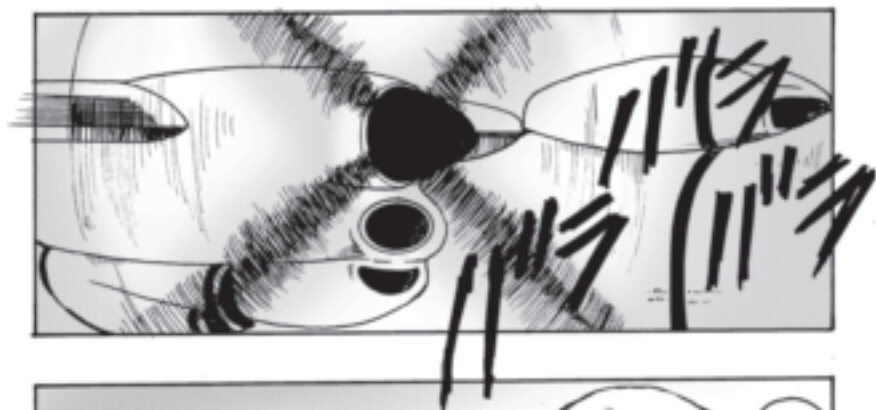
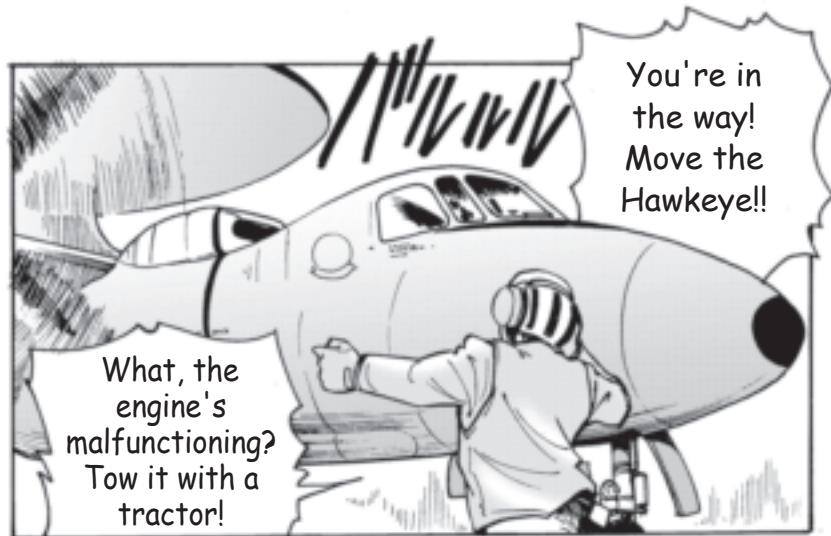


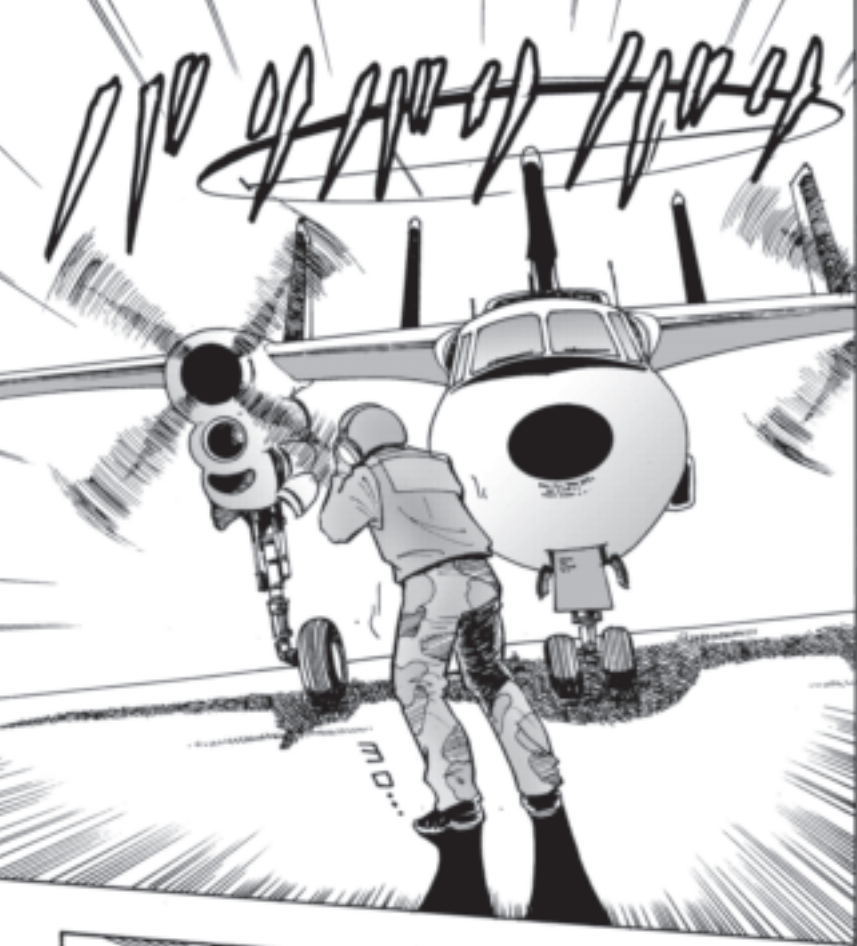
Then
fatigue
follows.

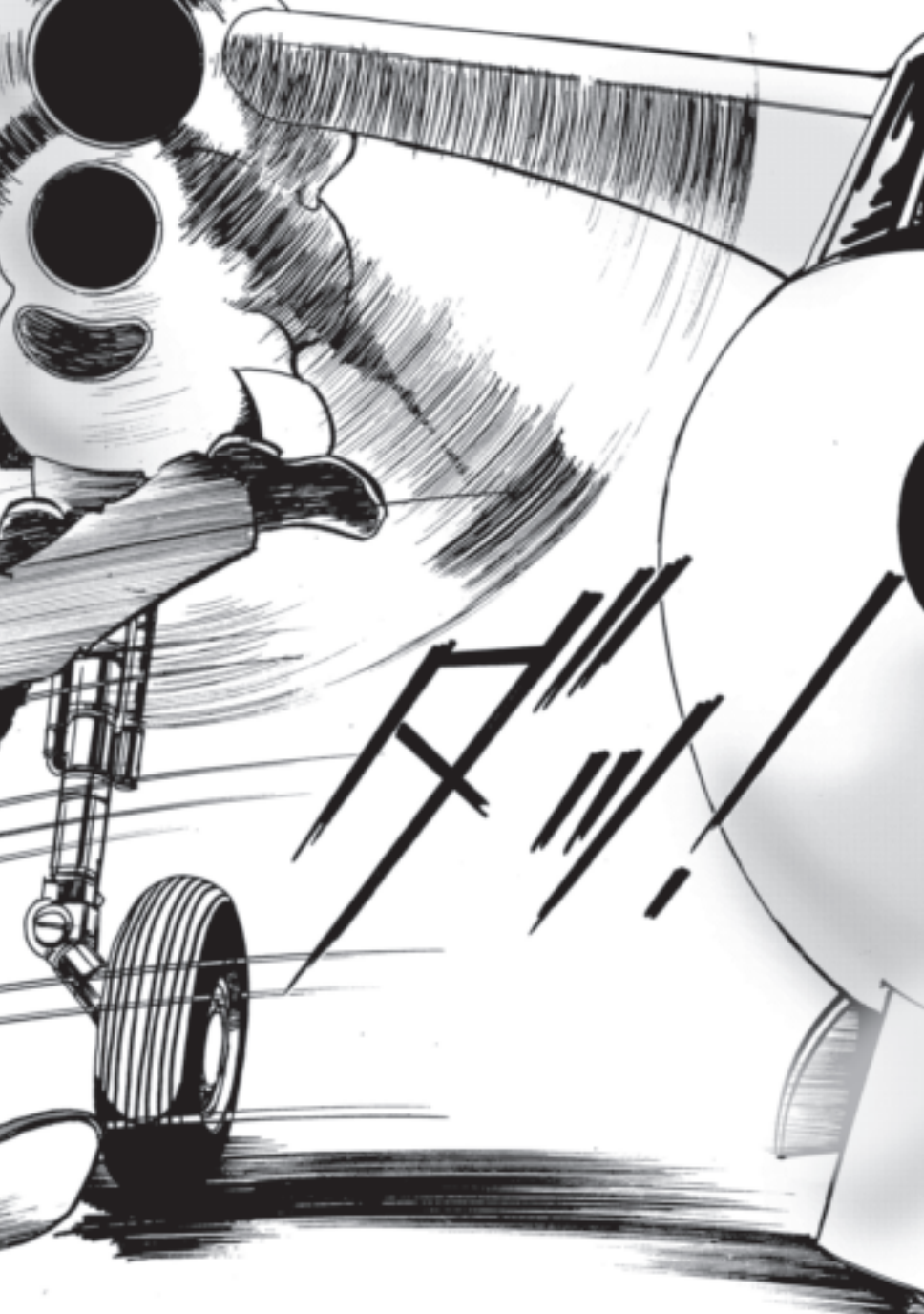
working for
hours make
all senses go
numb.

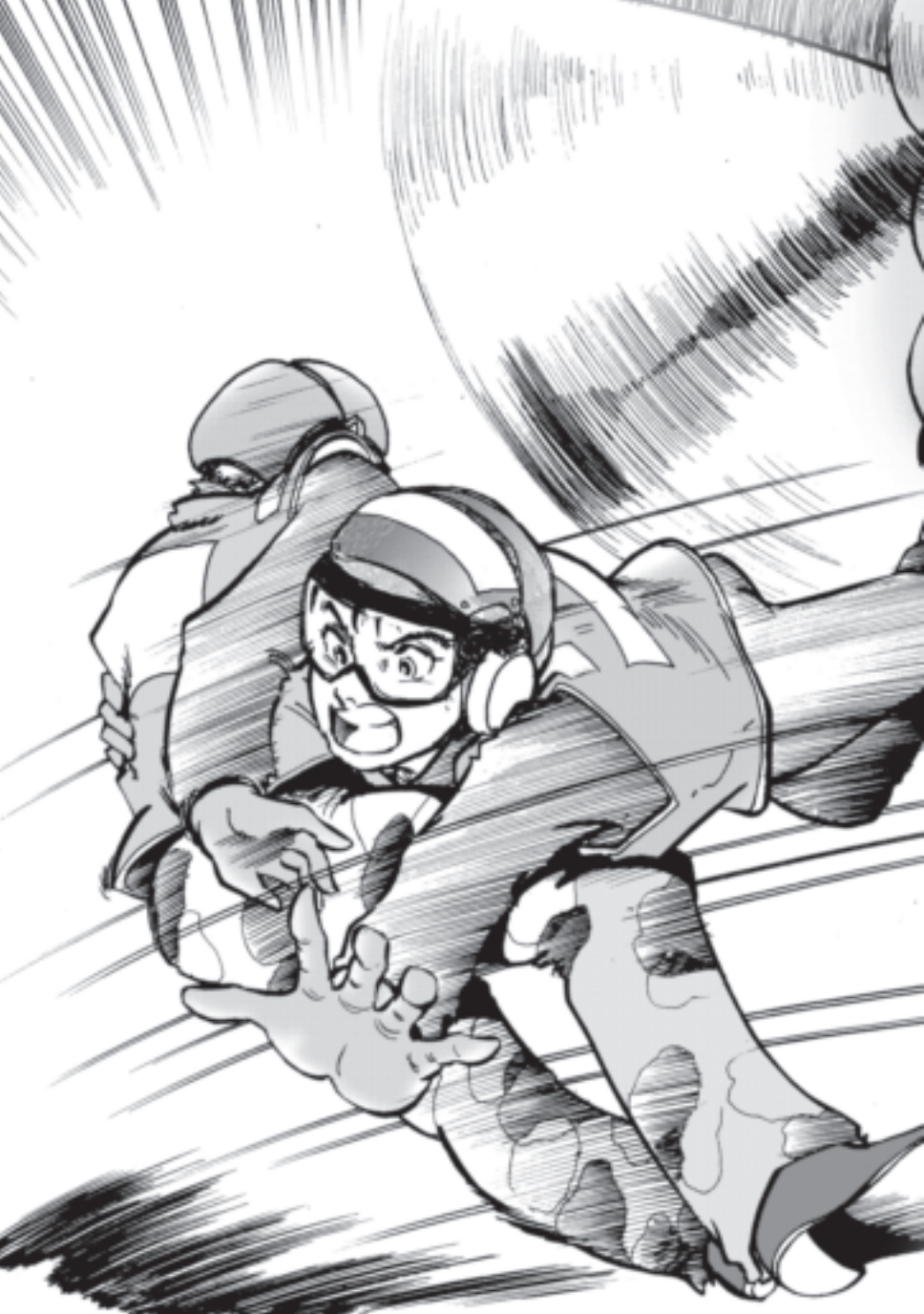


Man, how
long is this
drill going
to last?

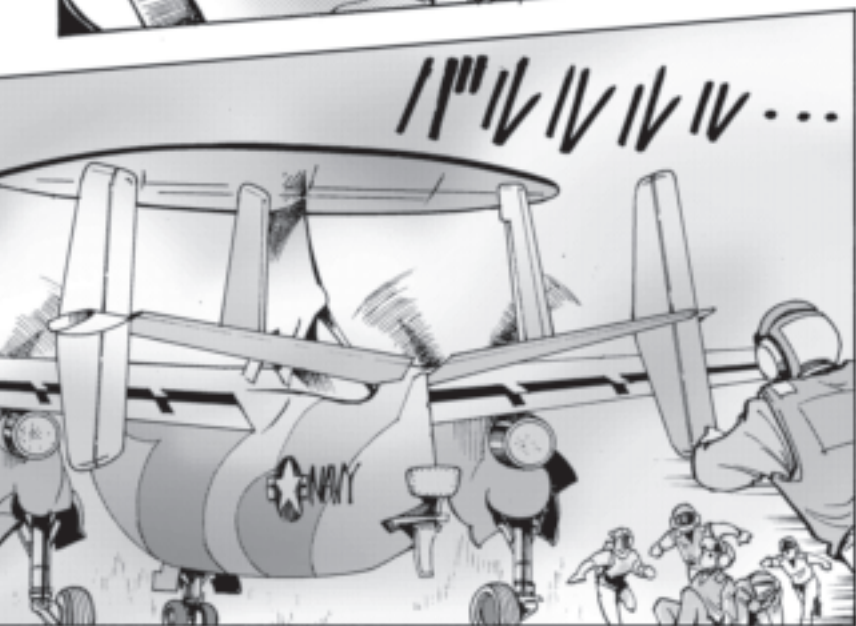








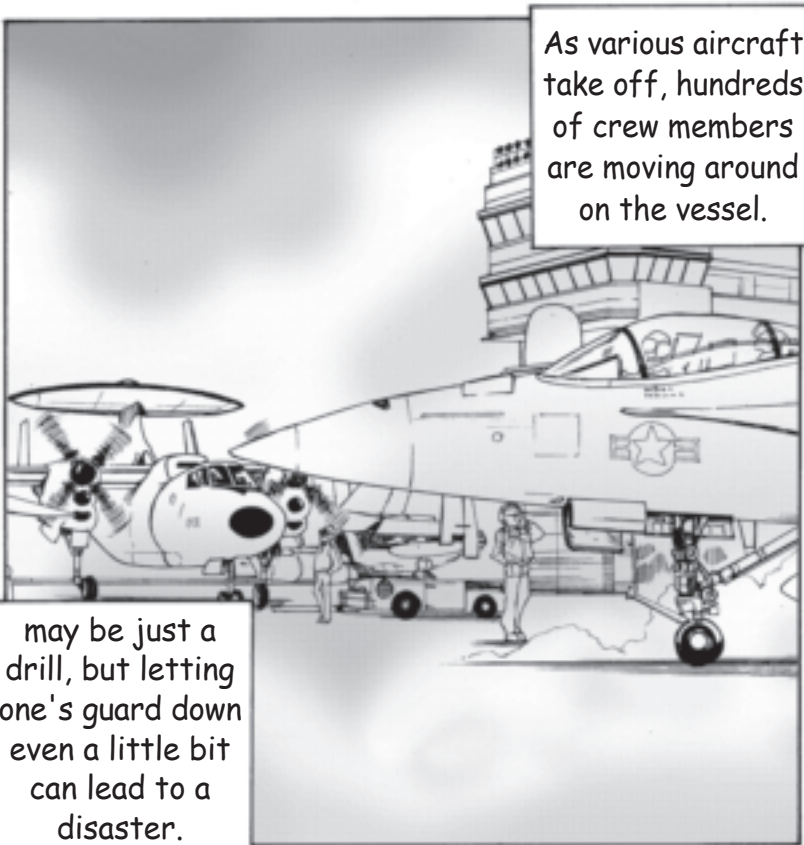




You'd have
been pulped
if you got
caught!

Idiot! You
wanna
die!?







There you
are! Come on,
over here!!



I was with
him just
a moment
ago ...

Hey,
where's
Jack
Ohara?



Um ...

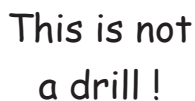


As I become accustomed to carrier life, I realized something for the first time.

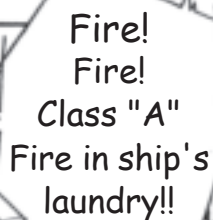
Apparently, I naturally have little sense of direction.



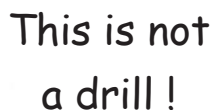




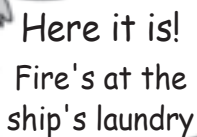
This is not
a drill !



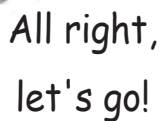
Fire!
Fire!
Class "A"
Fire in ship's
laundry!!



This is not
a drill !



Here it is!
Fire's at the
ship's laundry



All right,
let's go!











Jack,
you ...



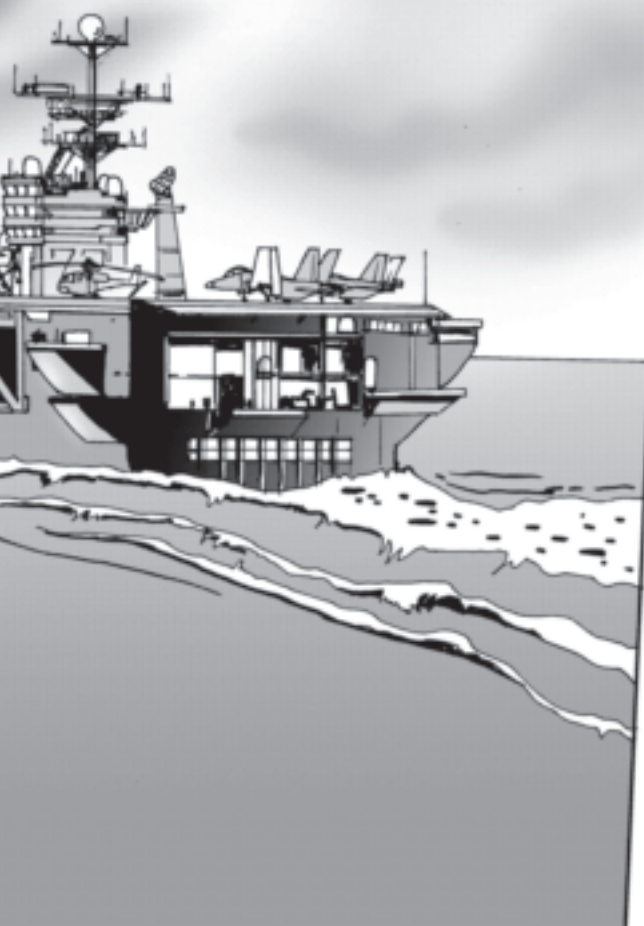
Good
Job!

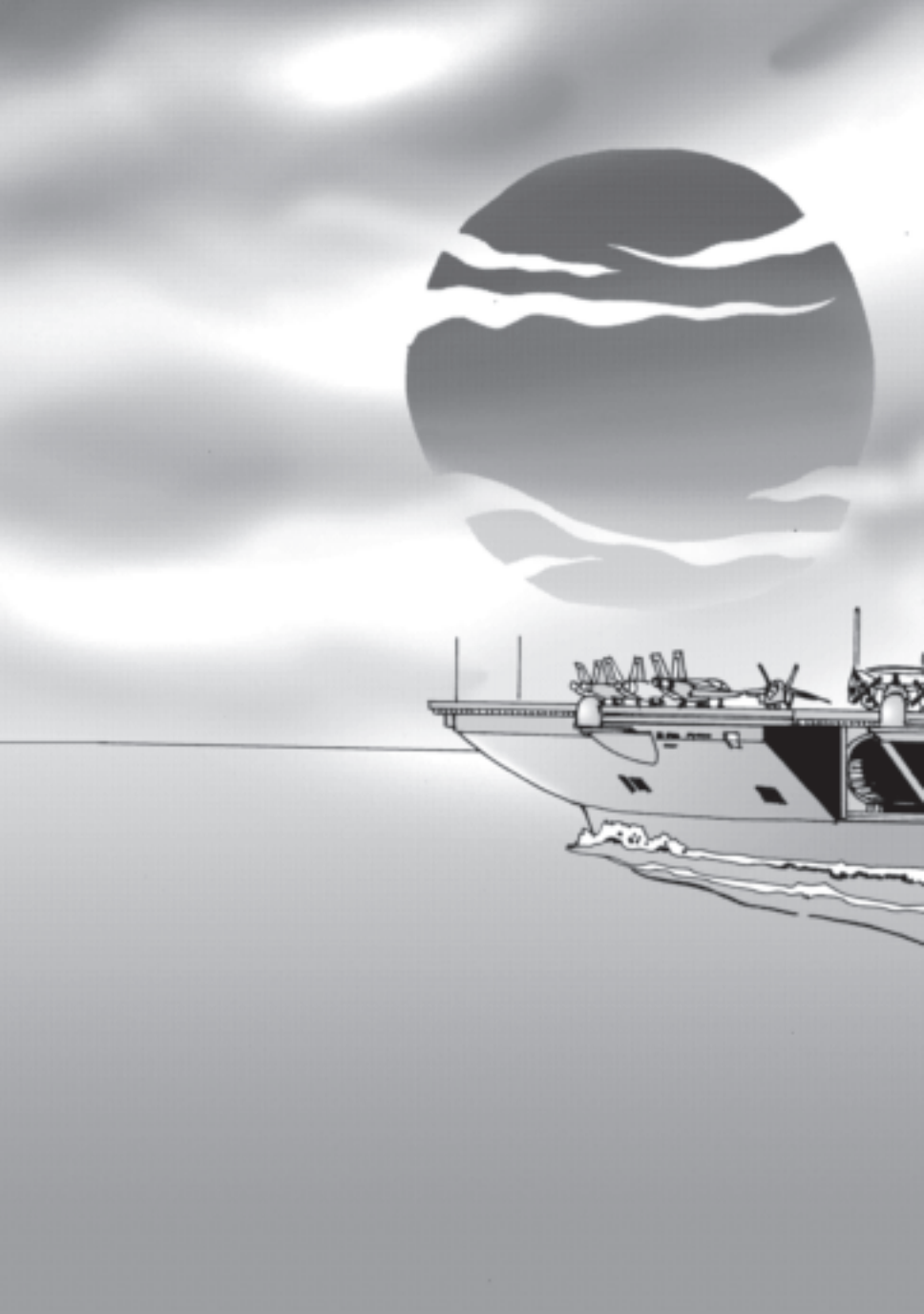
Good
job!!



The cause of
fire was an
overheated
dryer.

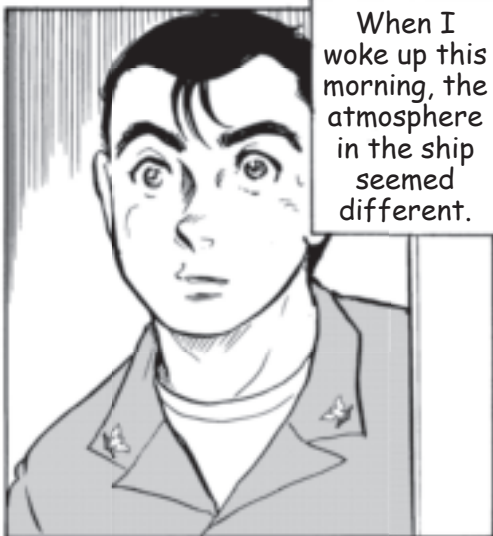


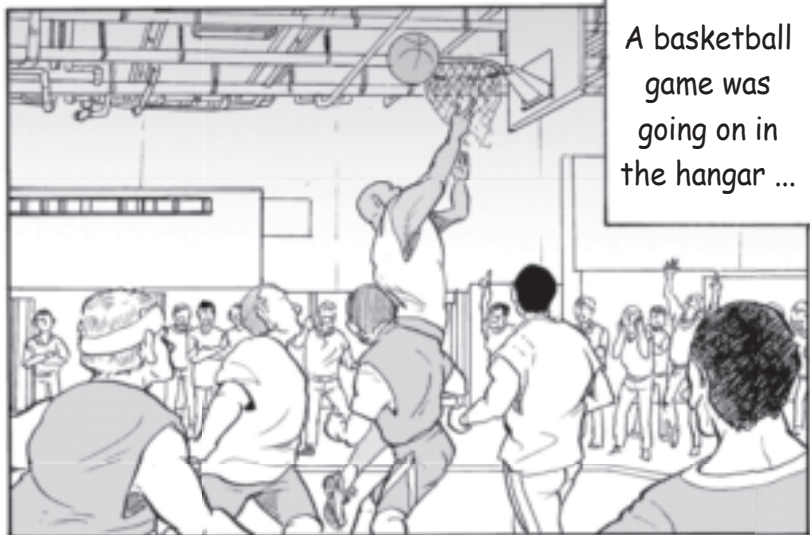




...Weeks Later

Our voyage
to Japan is
nearly over.





A basketball game was going on in the hangar ...

At the flight deck,

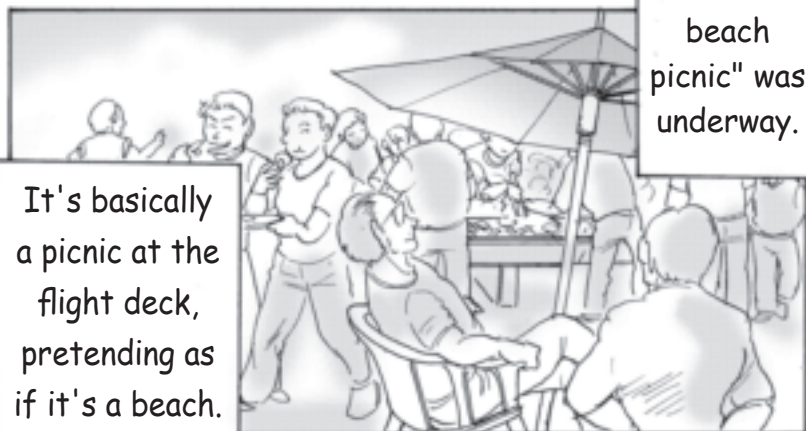
with music in the background.





a "steel
beach
picnic" was
underway.

It's basically
a picnic at the
flight deck,
pretending as
if it's a beach.

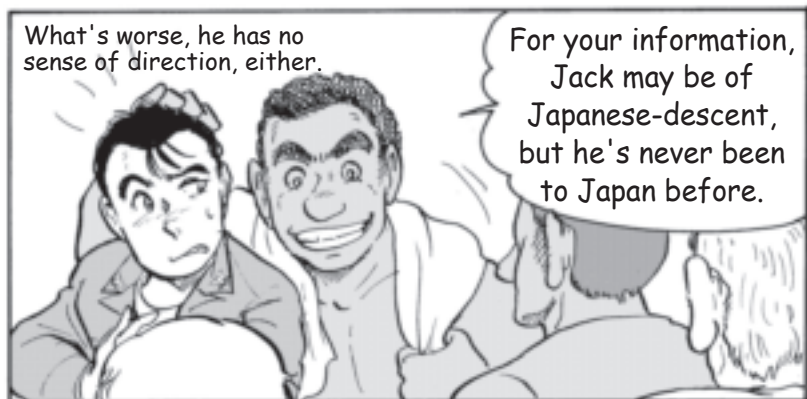






What's worse, he has no sense of direction, either.

For your information, Jack may be of Japanese-descent, but he's never been to Japan before.

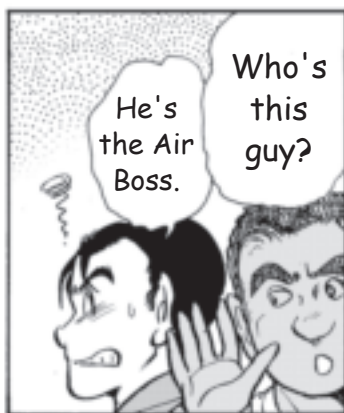
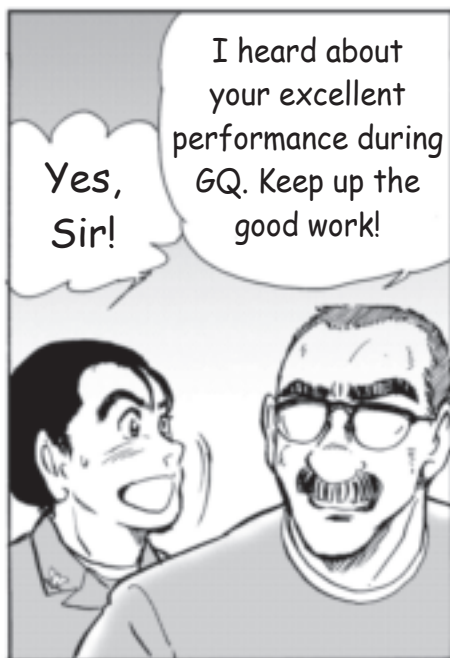


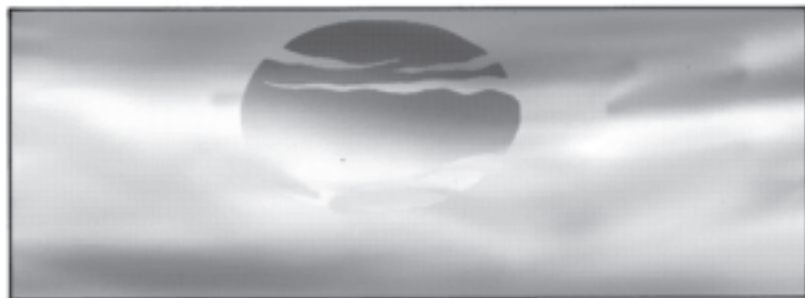
Darn.

Oh ...

Evidently, they thought I could be their tour guide.





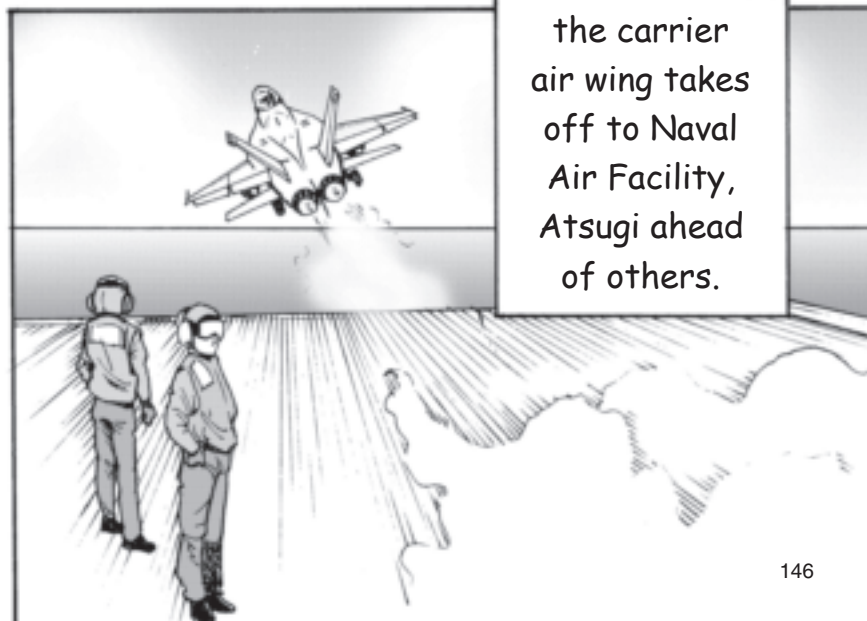
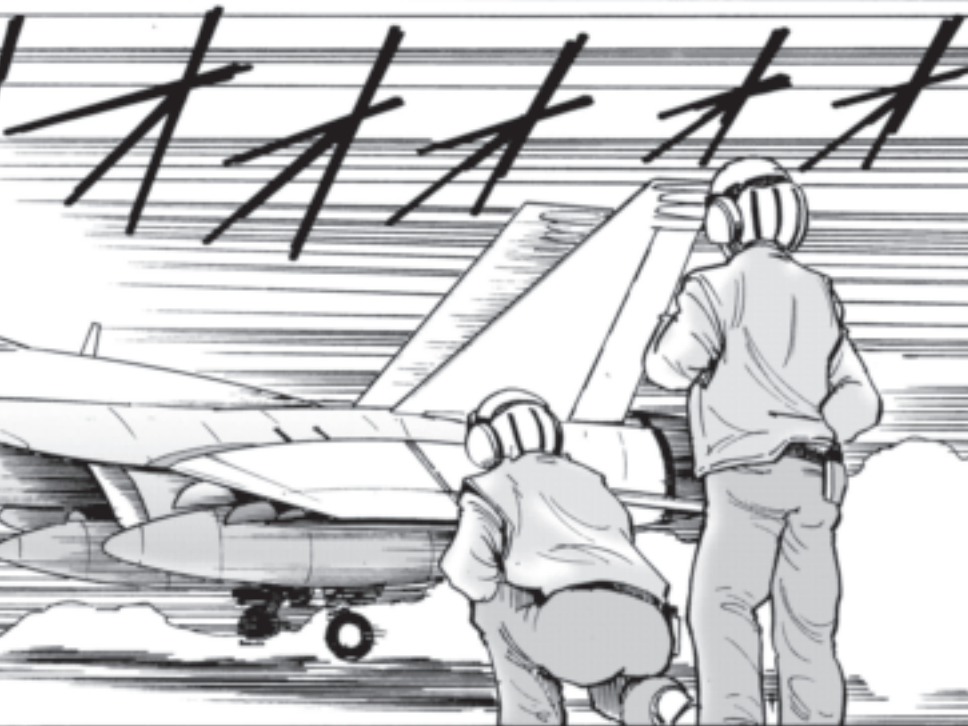


The rest
of the
cruise
was
uneventful.

Our seminars
on Japan
entered their
last stage.

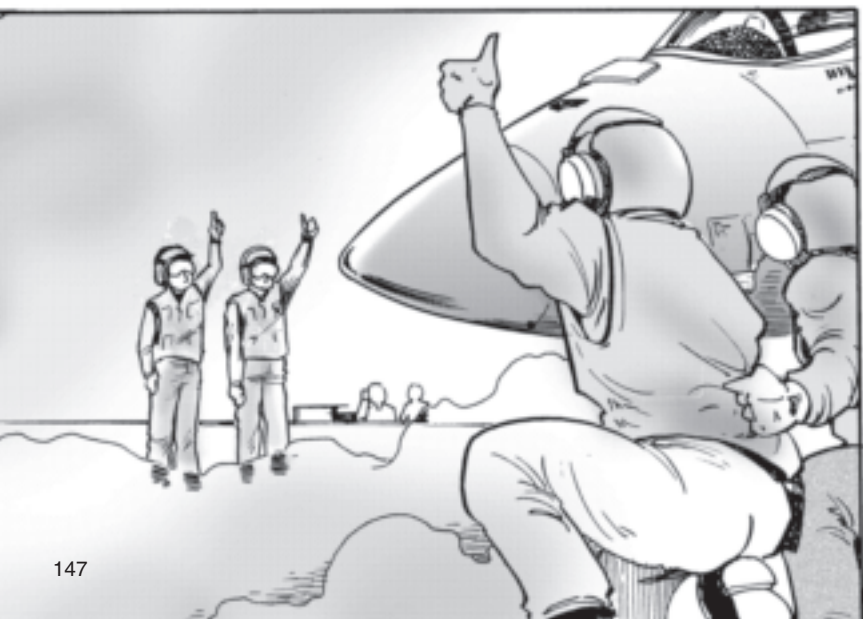
and we
were
ready to
arrive in
Japan,

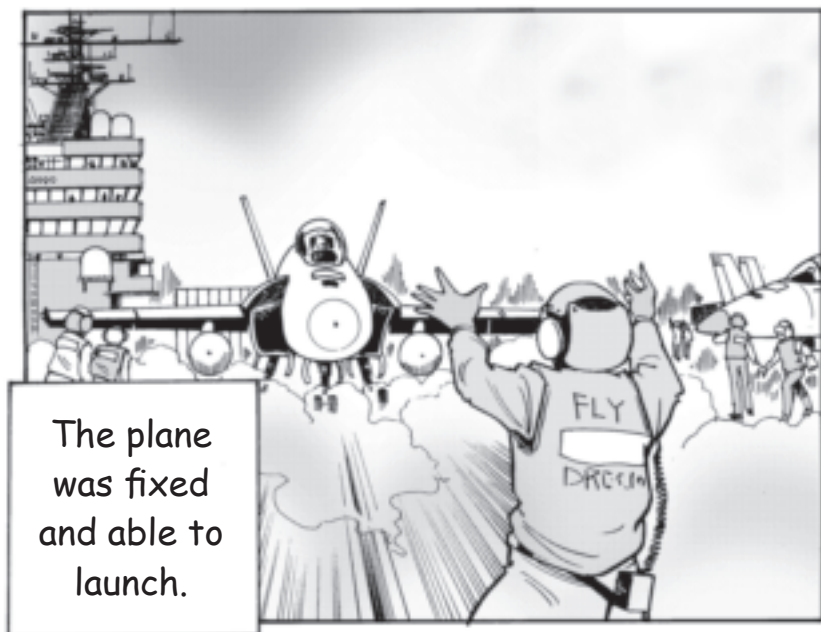
When we
finished
packing

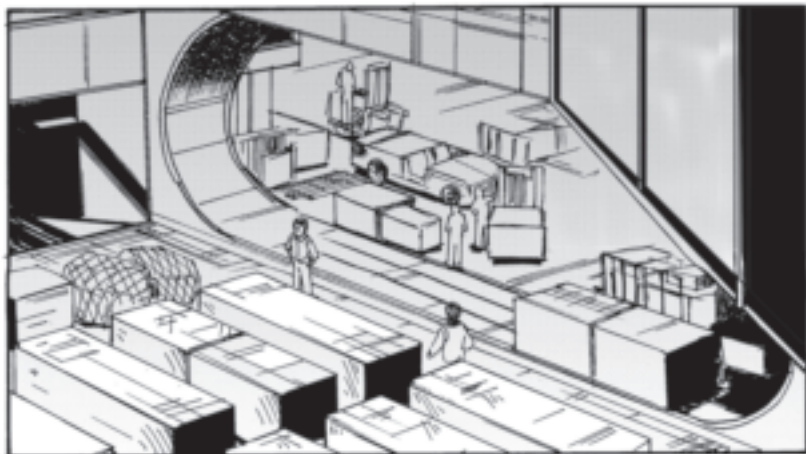


the carrier
air wing takes
off to Naval
Air Facility,
Atsugi ahead
of others.

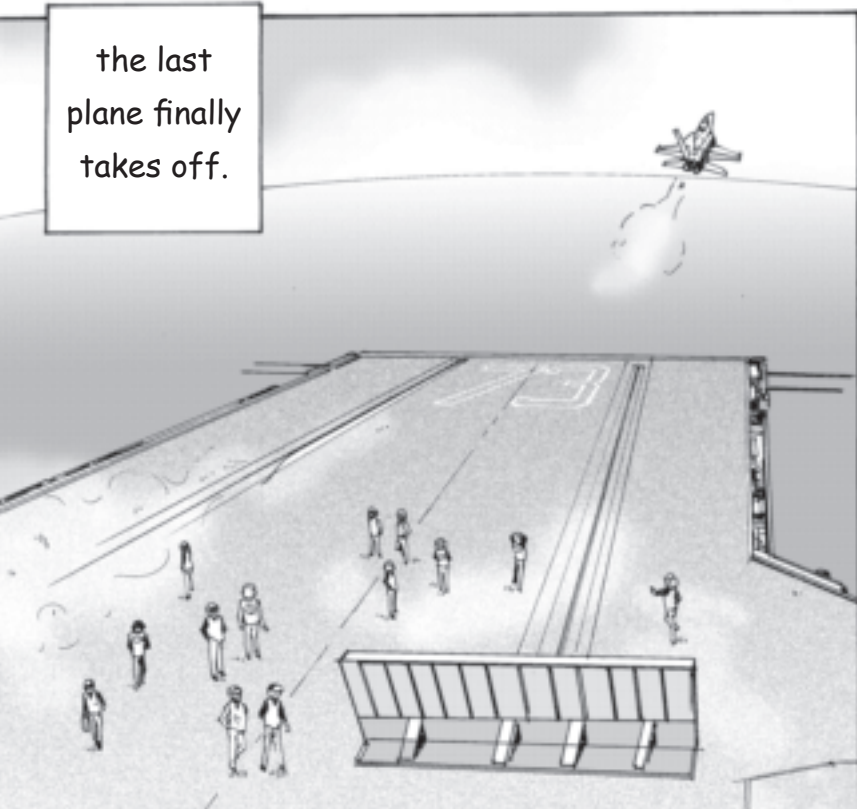
フィッシュ



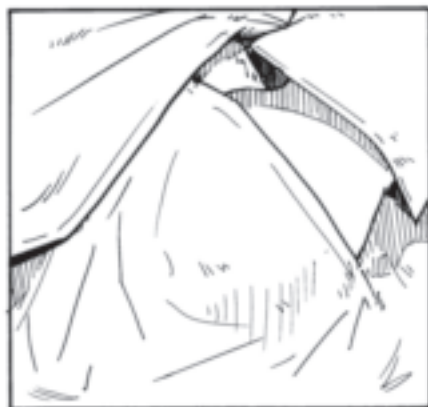
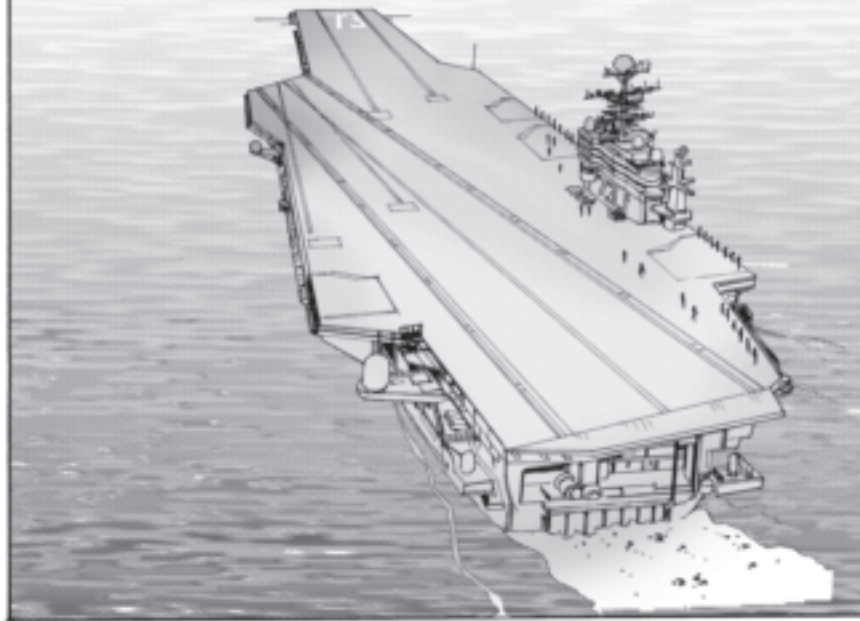




the last
plane finally
takes off.



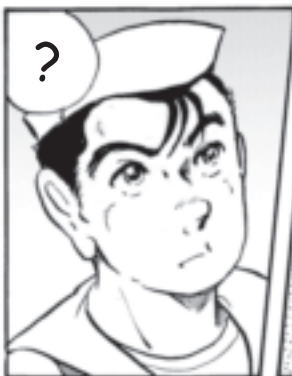
Then we
would see
Japan soon
afterwards.



Yes.

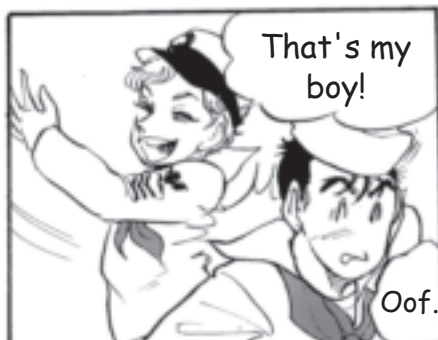


Jack,
are you
ready?



Well ...

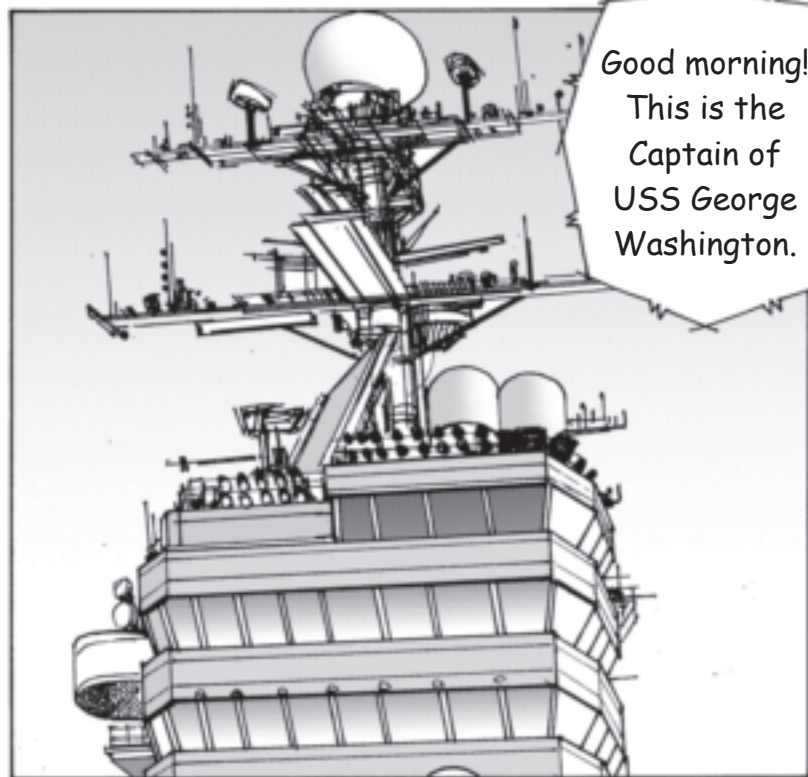
You look
good.
I assume you are
no longer too
worried.



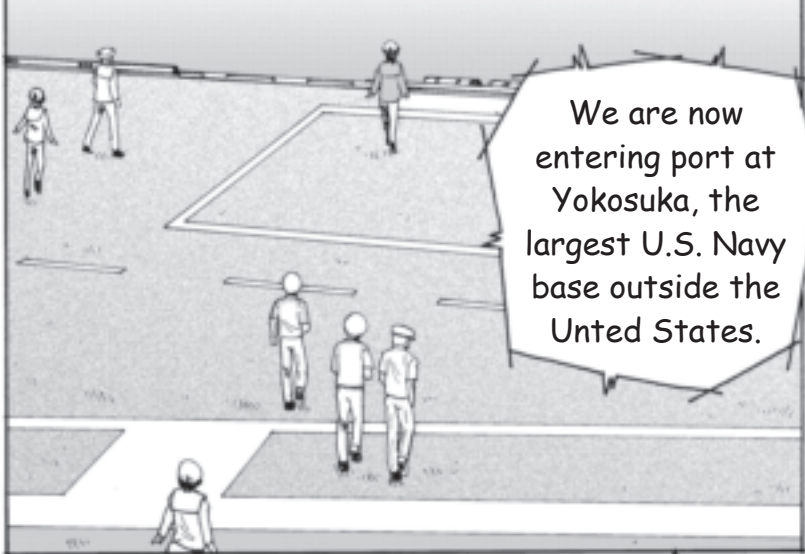




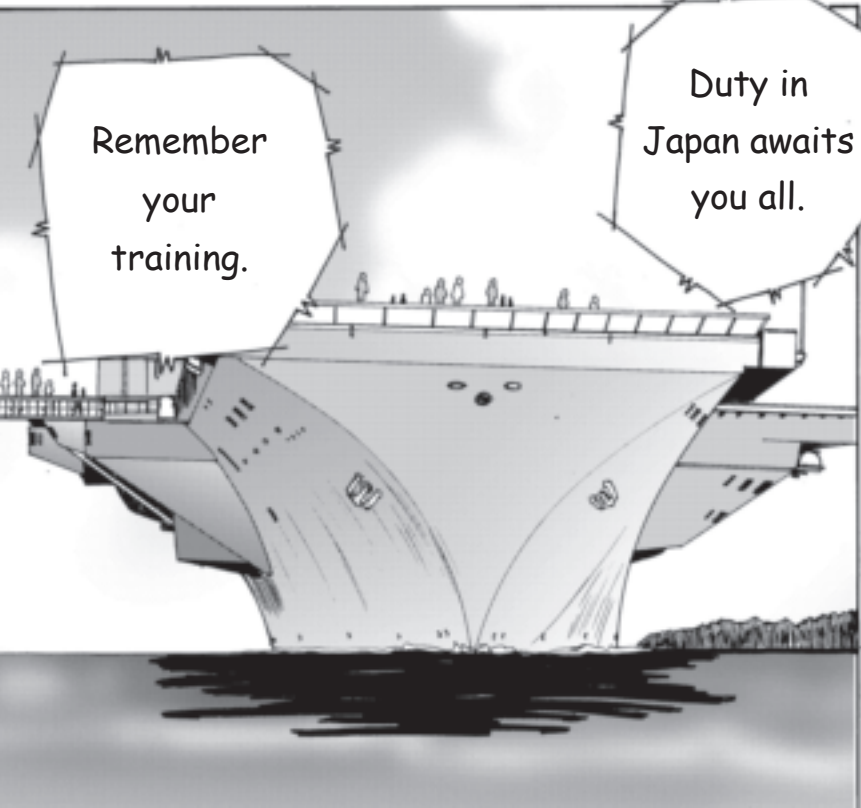




Good morning!
This is the
Captain of
USS George
Washington.



We are now
entering port at
Yokosuka, the
largest U.S. Navy
base outside the
United States.

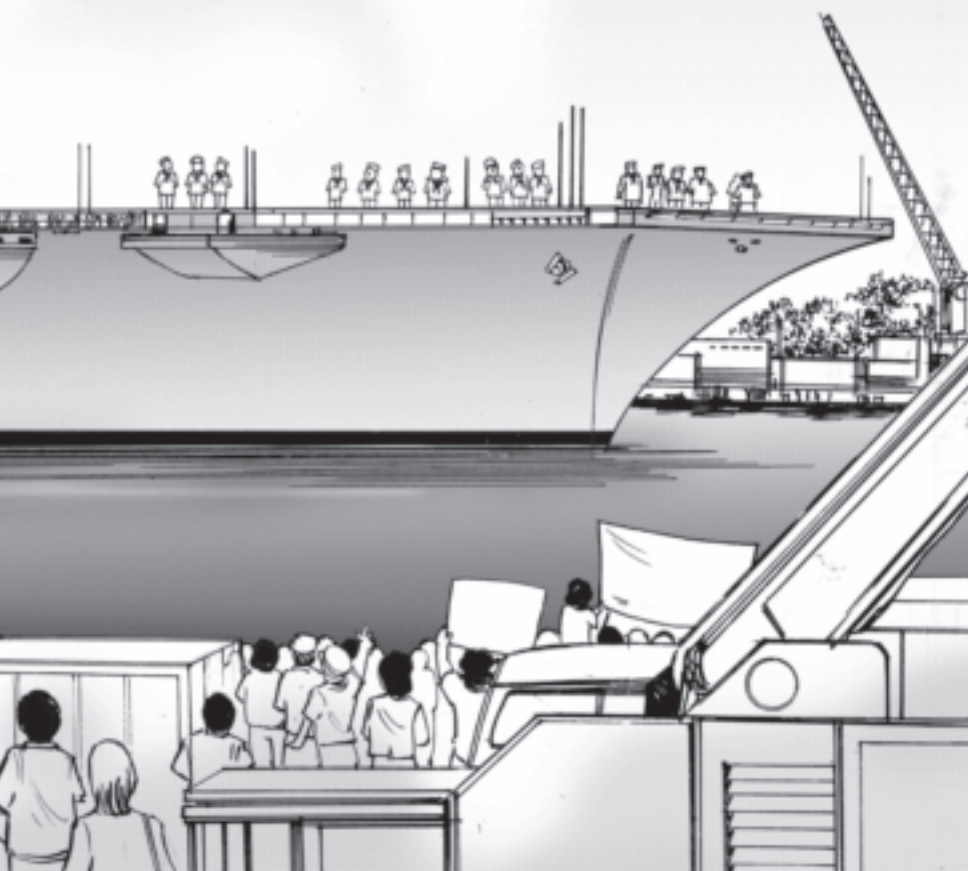


Remember
your
training.

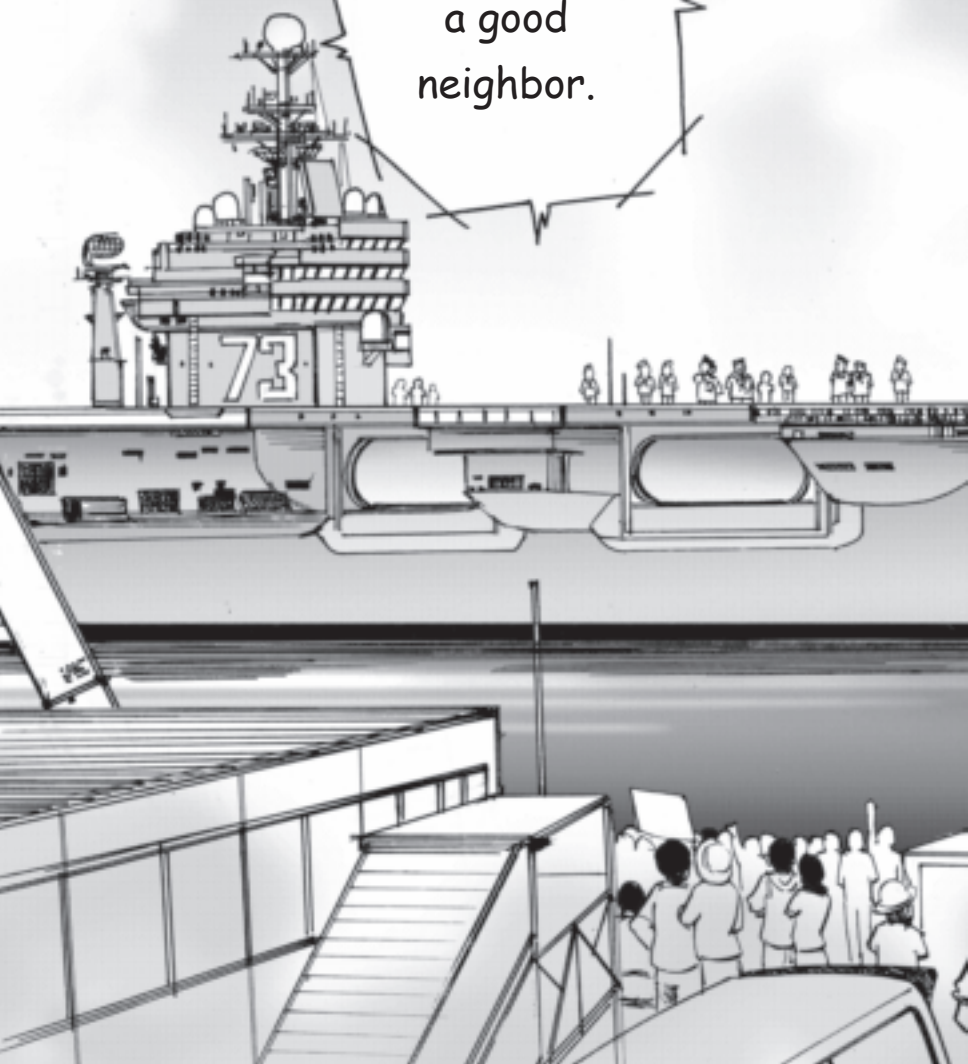
Duty in
Japan awaits
you all.

I sincerely
hope that each
one of you will
act as a goodwill
ambassador

And as sailors
of the U.S.
Navy,



and as
a good
neighbor.



George
Washington
soon entered
port at
Yokosuka.



Kamakura





We work
a 24-hour
shift while
we are at
sea.

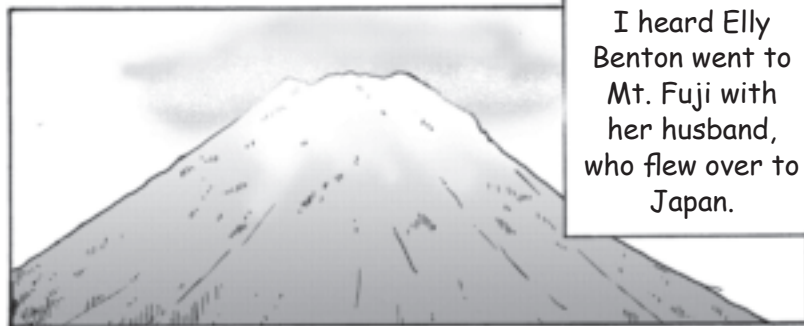
Thus everyone
looks forward
to their first
holiday after
arriving at
the base.



Others go
sightseeing.



Some go
shopping.



I heard Elly
Benton went to
Mt. Fuji with
her husband,
who flew over to
Japan.

As for
me ...

Mikasa Park



How can
I get to
Kamakura?

Yokosuka-Chuo Station



Whoa!

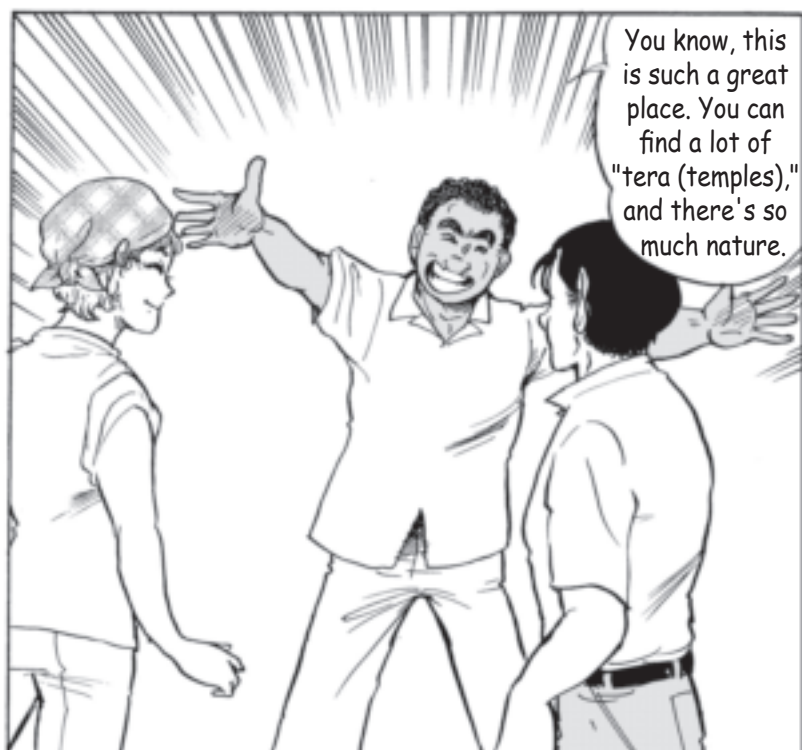
Excuse
me!!

OK ...
here
goes.
















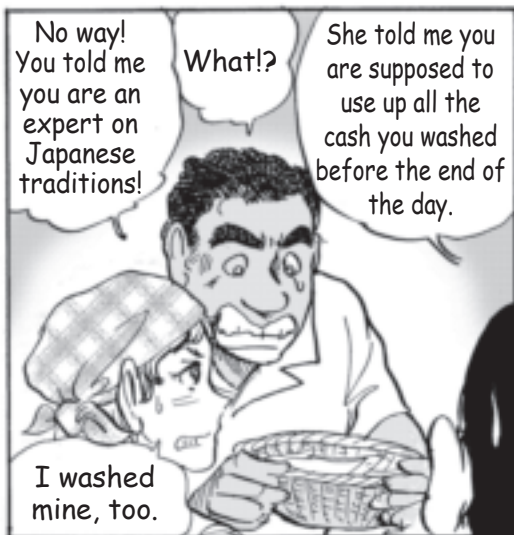




No matter
what I think,
Japanese blood
definitely runs
in my veins ...

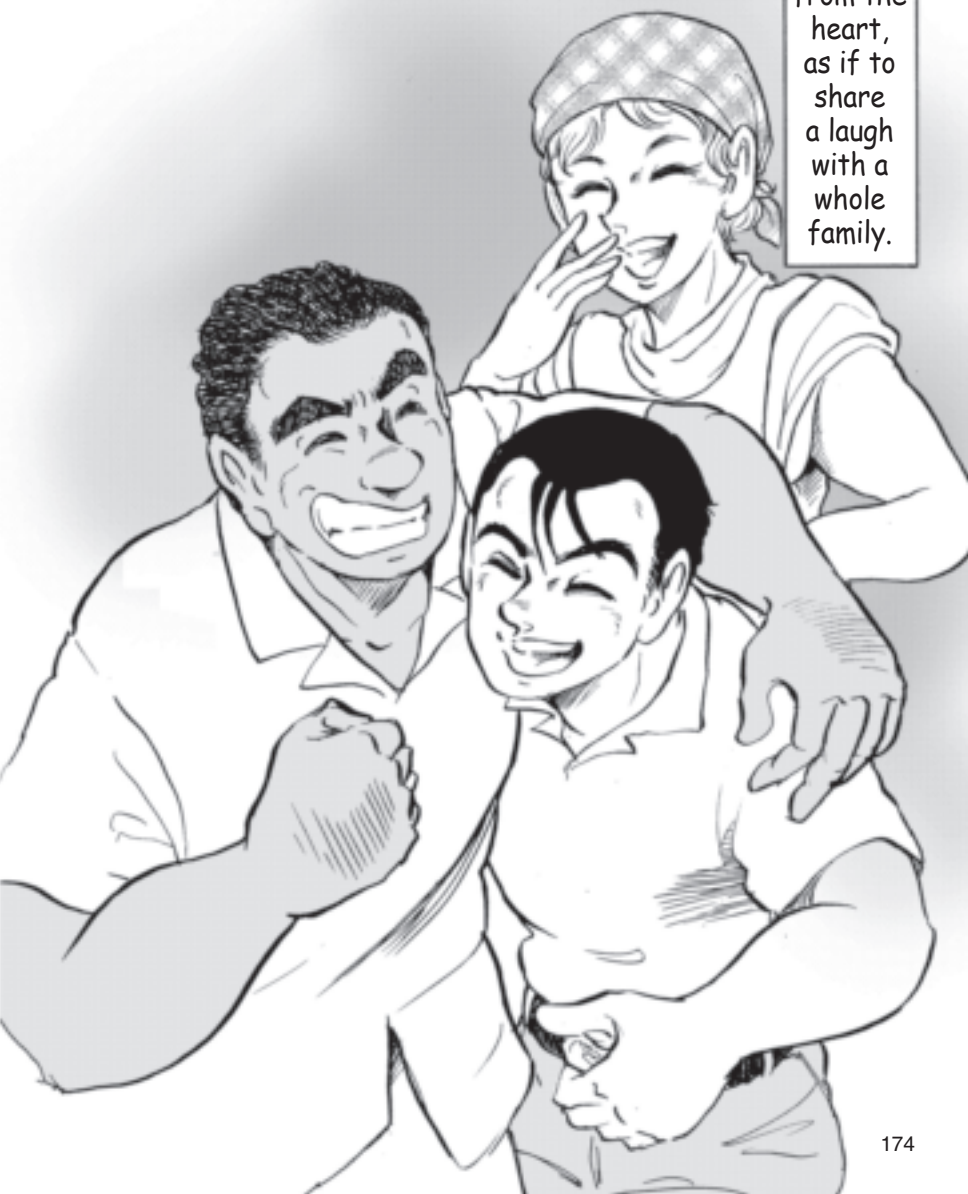


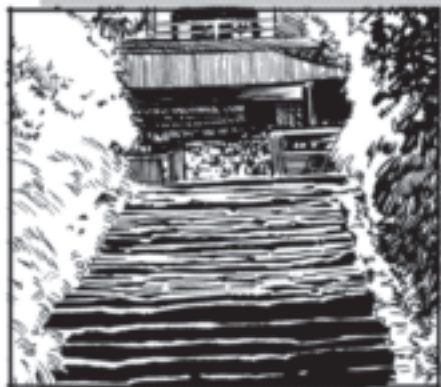
She
assumed
I was
Japanese
... huh?





I could
laugh
from the
heart,
as if to
share
a laugh
with a
whole
family.





We
visited
so many
temples.



I didn't
understand
the
meanings
behind
them,



I could feel
the coziness of
this pleasant
town my
grandparents
live in.



Thank
you ...

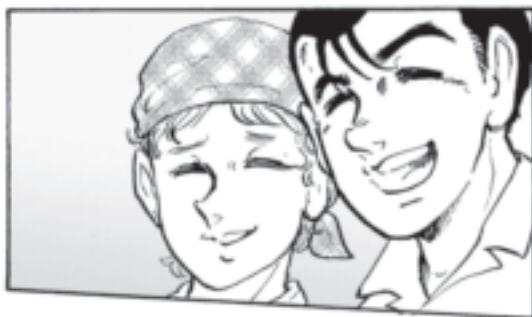
It must be
because they
were there
with me, and I
could feel their
thoughtfulness.

Come on,
this should
leave an
impression!

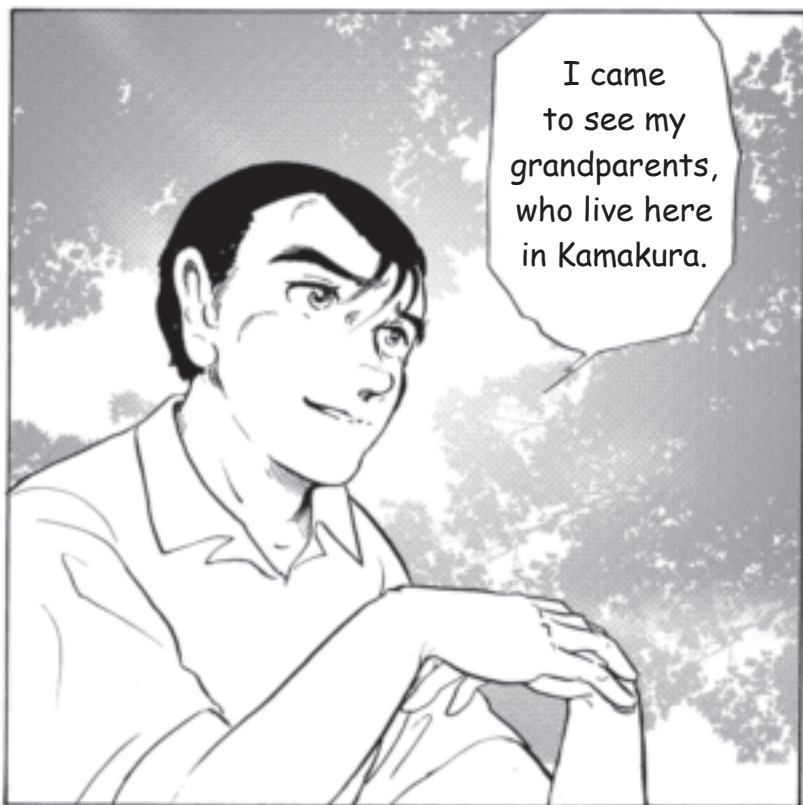
Wow!!

Kamakura-daibutsu





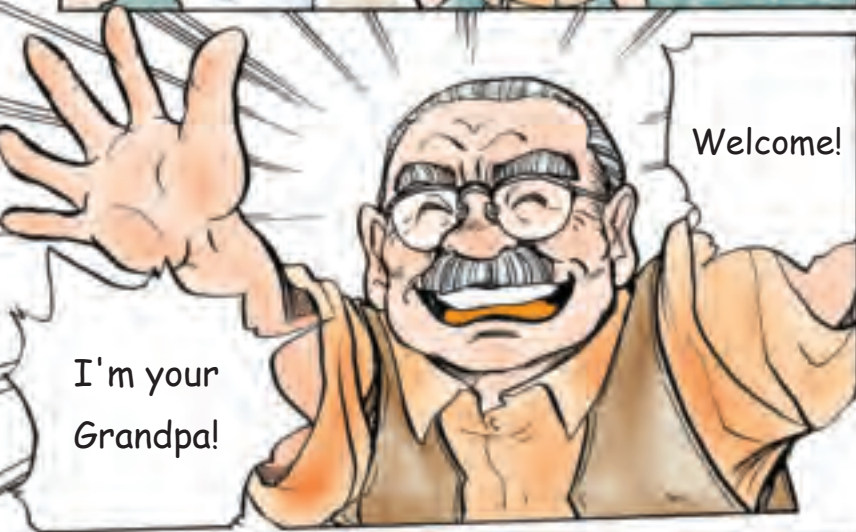










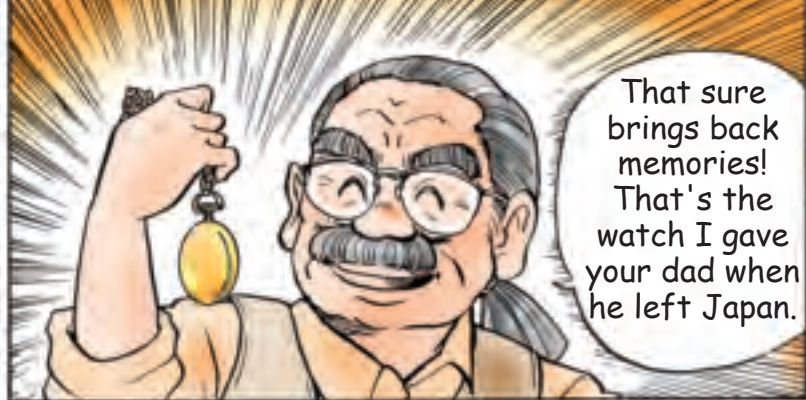












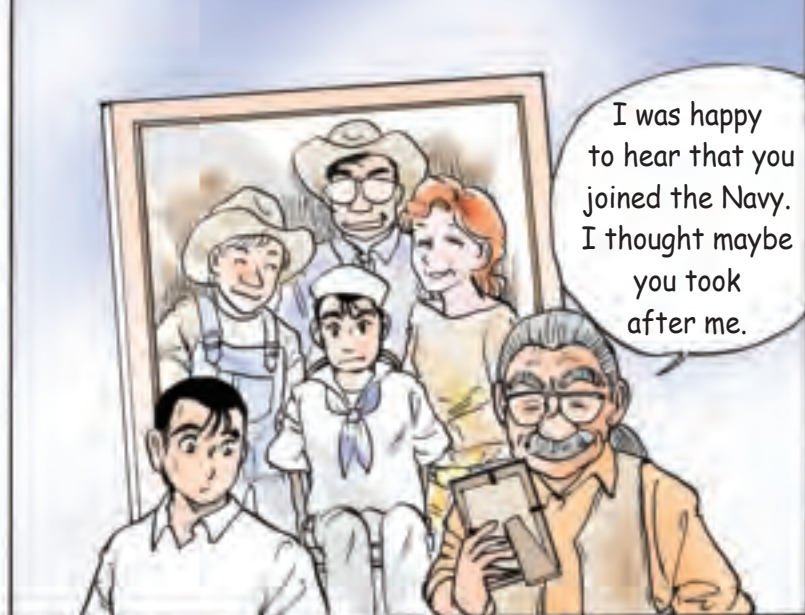


My son
carried that
watch and
found his
dream in
the United
States.

With that
watch, I
boarded a
cargo carrier
on foreign
route when I
was young.



Then my
grandson
came to
Japan
with that
watch ...



I was happy
to hear that you
joined the Navy.
I thought maybe
you took
after me.



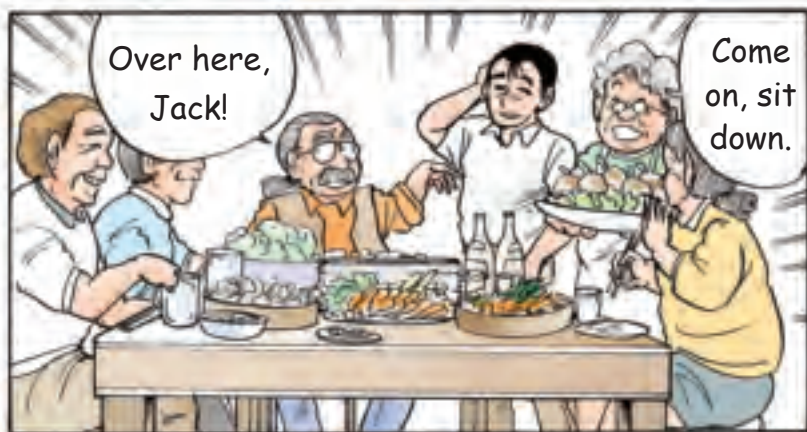
Grand-
father...



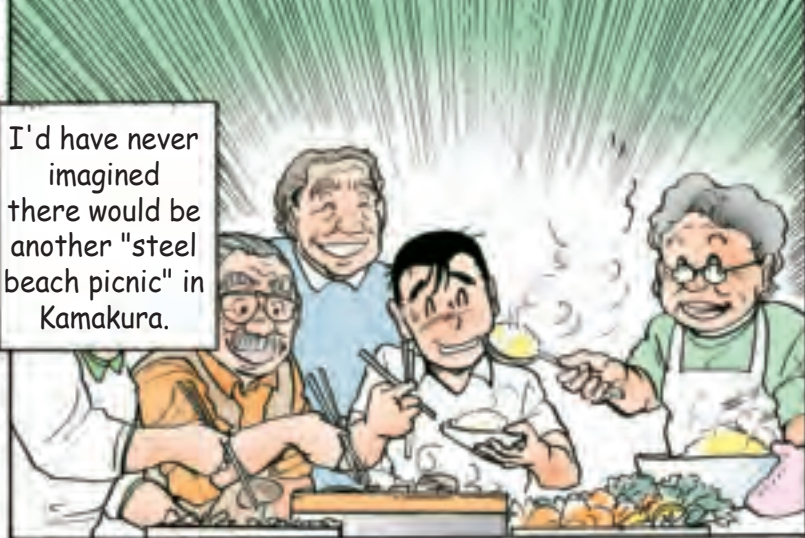
A lot has
happened,
but ...







I'd have never
imagined
there would be
another "steel
beach picnic" in
Kamakura.



But ...



But...



... now
I know
I have
family
here, too ...









USS George Washington

Builder :	Newport News Shipbuilding Company
Commissioned :	July 4,1992
Unit Cost :	About \$4.5 billion
Propulsion :	Two nuclear reactors, four shafts
Length :	1,092 feet (332.85 meters)
Beam :	134 feet (40.84 meters)
Flight Deck Width :	252feet (76.8 meters)
Displacement :	Approximately 97,000 tons
Speed :	30+ knots (34.5+ miles per hour)
Crew :	Ship's Company:3,200 – Air Wing:2,480
Armament :	Three NATO Sea Sparrow launchers, 20mm Phalanx CIWS mounts
Aircraft :	85

USS George Washington is the 6th Nimitz Class aircraft carrier, who was named after the first President of the United States, George Washington

Manga CVN73 USS George Washington

Issued : April 2008
Story & Art : Harumi Sato / Hiroshi Kazusa
Publication : Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Japan
Public Affairs Office

Print&Bookbinding : Osaka Shoseki Co., Ltd.



Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Japan
Public Affairs Office